

# Saipan Tribune

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I N S I D E

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Local

Comedian Navarette doubles-up Saipan

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

Wild laughter and frequent applause filled the Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach’s Hibiscus Hall on Saturday night as Filipino-American comedian Rex Navarette performed for some 500 people, joking about the Filipino mentality, immigrant experience, and his mother.

Following a short pre-show by Guam’s amateur comedy series champion Frank Rios, Navarette took the stage with nothing but a bottle of water. For the next hour and a half, he brought to life his famous characters, from his ESL [“English as a Stupid Language”] teacher Mrs. Scott to his Irish high school friend Brian and to his Uncle [or “Tito”] Boy.

Navarette humored the crowd with his stories about his early years in the San Francisco Bay Area, knowing only one English sentence, and having his grandfather for a babysitter. He also told hilarious jokes about the Filipino accent and the many “similarities” between the Irish and the Filipino peoples. [“The Irish were butchered by the English; us



Filipinos butcher English.”] In fact, his mother and her own prejudice against Filipinos have provided Navarette with most of his material for his lampooning and often irreverent routines.

He made fun of his mother’s strange pieces of advice whenever he went traveling to the Philippines: blink your eyes only twice a day so kidnappers won’t think you’re Chinese, and surround yourself with *chicharon* to keep the Muslim extremists away.

Navarette went on to comment on the practice of Filipinos, or Asians for that matter, of using their bare hands for eating. “Quoting” his mother, Navarette posed the question: “If I used my hand to eat rice at home, I’m Third World; but if I ate at McDonald’s and used my hand to pick French Fries, I’m First World?”

In an interview after the show, Navarette said he had fun performing for the Saipan crowd, which has been receptive to his comedy.

“The audience was excellent. I don’t know if you guys get stand up comedy here often, but it was really nice to perform for the first time here in front of a fresh audience. The people just let go of a lot of stuff,” said Navarette, who has been in the entertainment business for 15 years now.

He said he tries to make his routine universal to get more people to connect with his jokes. The immigrant experience, he said, is one good example of a universal theme.

“Everyone has immigrant experience, making some kind of transition to a new land. There’s a lot of comedy you can find in adjusting and discrimination,” he said.

While he normally has a working script for his acts, Navarette leaves room for spontaneity during his performances.

“I write down ideas, but I don’t necessarily script them all out. I just kind of like use the stage as my work-in-progress board. If [a joke] is good, I keep it. I remember it for the next time and develop it some more. The routines sometimes come on stage, or when you’re walking around, getting some groceries or just observing people,” he said.

Navarette started doing stand up comedy at age 19. In his trade, he has found a venue to comment on things that otherwise would not be mentioned.

“I guess it is my mission to showcase Filipino life and the mind of the Filipino. We’re beyond the United States now. We’re everywhere; we’re really part of the world,” Navarette said.

Nevertheless, he said he does

not claim to be able to reach every Filipino through his comedy. He noted that there are some Filipinos who actually find offensive or insulting the things he talks about on stage.

“They’d say, ‘You’re on stage with an accent; we don’t have an accent.’ But yes, we do and it’s okay. You’re the one discriminating against yourself when you start teaching Filipinos to be ashamed,” Navarette said. “That is the sound of my characters. I’m not going to fake it or make it cheap. I’m going to give you the real sound.”

And what does his mother think? “At first, she found me very offensive. But now that I’ve become ‘famous’ in her eyes and her friends’ eyes, she’s accepting it,” he replied. He added that the prejudice against Filipinos he portrays on stage signifies not so much his mother’s own attitude on how Filipinos in general think of their fellowmen.

Organizer Nathan Sablan described Budweiser’s Rxxxx Rated Comedy Show as very successful. He said Marpac, which distributes the beer brand in the CNMI, plans to bring more comedy acts to the island.

Other sponsors were Continental Airlines, Dai-Ichi Hotel, Aquarius Beach Tower, Budget Rental Car, Coca Cola, Power 99, and The Rock.

verizon  
cmyk

The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed photos of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details for description of the event, location of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place, the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the date of the picture. Contributors are e-mail their submissions to: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). To check if contributions are received, call 223-6207, 223-3446, or 223-4743.

PHI

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WEATHER FORECAST

PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., MARCH 9, 2004  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


Fresh to strong trade winds across much of Micronesia converging into lighter winds near the Equator are producing scattered showers between the Equator and 8n from 130e to 153 and between the Equator and 6n from 160e to 180. A cold front stretches from 25n161e to 20n146e and continues as a shear line to 19n130e. Low- and mid-level clouds...light rain and showers associated this feature extend up to 200 miles north of the boundary. Trade wind convergence south of the cold front/shear line is producing low clouds and showers between 12n and 18n from 132e to 150e. This area includes the Mariana Islands.





**SAIPAN AND TINIAN**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.





**GUAM AND ROTA**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.

**PALAU**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15 kt.




















**POHNPEI**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15 kt.

**YAP AND ULITHI**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15-20 kt.

**KOSRAE**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** East at 10-15 kt.

**CHUUK**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15-20 kt.

**MAJURO**  
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.  
**Winds:** East at 15-20 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Sunny	71F (22C)	60F (16C)
 Beijing	Sunny	65F (18C)	48F (9C)
 Hong Kong	Sunny	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82F (28C)	68F (20C)
 London, England	Sunny	45F (7C)	30F (-1C)
 Los Angeles	Sunny	79F (26C)	59F (15C)
 Manila	Partly Cloudy	88F (31C)	73F (23C)
 Melbourne	Sunny	75F (24C)	59F (15C)
 Miami	Partly Cloudy	72F (22C)	54F (12C)
 New York City	Cloudy	40F (4C)	34F (1C)
 Osaka	Partly Cloudy	37F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Paris	Partly Cloudy	38F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Pusan	Partly Cloudy	53F (12C)	39F (4C)
 Rome	Cloudy	49F (9C)	30F (-1C)
 Salem, Oregon	Partly Cloudy	60F (16C)	40F (4C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	68F (20C)	52F (11C)
 Seoul	Partly Cloudy	47F (8C)	35F (2C)
 Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	36F (2C)
 Washington, DC	Cloudy	45F (7C)	34F (1C)

JOETEN MOTORS  
+BLUE

FHB





# House passes recycling deposit bill

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER

Saying it would significantly help reduce solid waste and littering in the CNMI, the House of Representatives passed last week a bill mandating a deposit fee of not less than 5 cents and a payout for each beverage sold.

Lawmakers passed House Bill 14-211 or the proposed Recycling Deposit Fee and Payout Program Act of 2004, authored by Rep. Janet Maratita.

The House Ways and Means Committee said in a report that 50 percent of litter is comprised

of used beverage containers.

“Providing a payout incentive such as a recycling deposit fee and a payout program will deter and reduce littering,” said the committee, chaired by Rep. Norman S. Palacios.

Under the bill, a deposit fee of not less than 5 cents shall be levied and paid by the consumer on each beverage container purchased in the CNMI.

Upon return, at least 75 percent of the amount of the refund value shall be paid back to the consumer.

The refund is claimed from redemption centers, which can be set up by any individual upon approval of the Division

of Environmental Quality.

The bill provides that dealers shall remit all deposits collected each month to the CNMI Treasury under the “recycling deposit fund.” The funds collected would be used as reimbursement for refunded amounts and for expenses related to redemption centers’ activities.

Reverse vending machines may be used by redemption centers provided that the machine shall accept one or more types of empty deposit beverage containers and shall pay out appropriate refunds as coins or via a redeemable credit slip.

GLUSHKOS

# DCCA learns the ropes on dealing with conflict

Conflict is a necessary and healthy part of the life of all organizations. The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs learned the truth of that statement at a personal development workshop on “Improved Communications” sponsored by the DCCA Division of Youth Services earlier this month.

The workshop, facilitated by Dr. Ken Shankweiler, elaborated on the importance of good communication skills in the workplace. The daylong training consisted of various group activities and discussions on the basic skills of communication and steps in dealing with conflict.

“The purpose of presenting this workshop on communication was to strengthen our staff’s understanding, skills, and provide them the tools needed when dealing with conflict,” said DYS director Victor Mesta. “As the end product, DYS and the department will be better prepared to obtain its goals and objectives.”

According to Shankweiler, how well a person communicates with people determines what he or she will become in life, personality-wise. As part of the training, participants were reminded to use simple language, to ask for feedback, to think about the receiver of the communication, and to focus on what the receiver needs and wants to know.

“The workshop taught me to be more patient and more understanding toward my co-workers’ needs,” said Genevieve Deleon Guerrero of the DCCA Office of the Secretary. “I also learned that just the way people look and say things also expresses how they really feel, and when others are already mad, I shouldn’t get mad because it only causes more stress.”

In resolving conflict, Shank-

weiler teaches that team leaders must focus on the objective facts, area of needs, and mutual goals; ask for possible solutions from both parties to resolve conflict; have both parties agree on solution; and set up a review. It’s a process that Juvenile Correction Worker I Ricardo R. Rasa plans to implement in his work at the DYS Juvenile Correction and Detention Unit.

“For our job in this field

working with the kids, we learned new skills on how to not let any conflict escalate,” said Rasa. “Even with co-workers, we learned how to deal with staff and control conflicts through procedures.”

The workshop was held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan and was participated in by several DCCA divisions: the Division of Youth Services, Office on Aging, Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Office of the Secretary.

CARS UNLIMITED

Business



Nations looks to fill Asia demand for soy

**SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)**—Driven by voracious Asian demand, Brazilian and Argentine farmers are scrambling to plant as much soy as they can while Chilean mine workers rack up overtime burrowing into the earth for copper.

With China buying up all the raw material it can to fuel an un-

Chinese President Hu Jintao addresses the CEO's APEC summit, in Santiago, Friday, Nov. 19, 2004. He is in Chile to attend the upcoming APEC summit.

AP

precedented economic expansion, Latin America is looking to Asia to build on a booming trade relationship that has no end in sight. And Asian countries—particularly China—are looking for political payback for being good customers.

Before he arrived at this week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit of 21 economies facing the Pacific, Chinese President Hu Jintao got the red carpet treatment in a weeklong trip to Brazil and Argentina.

Hu was quickly rewarded by Brazil, Chile and Argentina with a prize: Declarations by the countries that the Asian giant is now a market economy, a status China has been seeking worldwide to keep countries from imposing penalties on the dumping of Chinese exports.

In return, China pledged multibillion dollar investments in Argentine energy production, infrastructure and railways. Brazil got accords that will increase its imports of chicken and beef to China, and a US\$1 billion (euro770 million) agreement to build a natural gas pipeline.

Chile and China are negotiating a free trade agreement, but China didn't ask for the market economy declaration as a condition, said Hugo Lavados, who heads Chile's trade promotion office and announced the decision Friday.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun also spent three days

in Brazil ahead of the APEC summit, endorsing a free trade zone for his country with the Mercosur bloc—Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Brazil wants to export ethanol fuel and mid-sized airplanes to South Korea and hopes the Asian nation will invest in Brazil's crumbling infrastructure.

Although experts say Latin America still wants to maintain close relationships with the United States, Latin American countries clearly want to increase their trade flow to Asia and are willing to grant political concessions in return.

"I see this as a new initiative that has legs and is going to walk," said Riordan Roett, Western Hemisphere department chairman at Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. "Is there going to be a quid pro quo the Chinese ask of Latin America? Politics is always linked to trade, and there is no reason the Chinese should act any differently."

From 2001 to 2003 alone, exports from Latin America to Asia jumped from US\$22 billion to US\$29 billion (euro17 billion to euro22 billion)—an increase of 32 percent—due mainly to Chinese growth of more than 9 percent annually. Latin American exports of raw materials have also increased to countries like South Korea, Japan and Australia.

Experts fear price pressures could worsen

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—After years of relative calm on the inflation front, Americans are being battered by \$2-a-gallon gasoline, rising food prices and higher medical bills. And there are fears that price pressures could worsen in 2005.

The problem came into sharp focus last week when the government reported that wholesale prices increased in October by the largest amount in more than 14 years, and prices at the retail level recorded the biggest gain since May.

At the same time, energy prices experienced another jump, climbing at an annual rate of 22.5 percent through October. This has contributed to inflation's rising at a 3.9 percent annual rate this year, compared with 1.9 percent in 2003.

Inflationary pressures have led some economists to worry about a possible nightmare scenario: The dollar weakens dramatically, which drives up import prices; as terrorists attack overseas oil production facilities, which drives up energy prices; and like that, America's productivity miracle, a main reason for moderate inflation in recent years, disappears.

Economists acknowledge this is a worst-case scenario. Still, they say some shock is likely.

"If my inflation projection for next year goes haywire, it will most likely be because of external factors such as geopolitical tensions or terrorism that we have no control over," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis.

Some economists see inflationary pressures next year that will result directly from Bush administration policies on the dollar.

The administration insists it favors a strong dollar yet has done nothing to check the greenback's slide over the past three years. This decline could help combat the widening U.S. trade deficit by making American products cheaper abroad and imports pricier in this country.

Treasury Secretary John Snow and other U.S. officials have pressed China to sever its currency's direct link to the dollar. U.S. manufacturers contend that practice has undervalued the Chinese currency by as much as 40 percent and given China a substantial advantage against U.S. competitors.

SHELL DOUBLE STAMP  
CMYK



# Slumping dollar to dominate G-20 meeting

**BERLIN** (AP)—European officials are increasingly alarmed by the U.S. dollar’s slump against the euro—but they aren’t likely to get help from the United States or Asian countries at the G-20 meeting of industrial and developing countries that opened Saturday.

The annual meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors, which ends Sunday, followed a week in which worries over the U.S. trade and budget deficits pushed the euro to a new all-time high of US\$1.3074.

U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow has met increasingly sharp complaints from Europeans—worried that their export-led recovery will be hurt—with a clear message that Washington won’t act to prop up the dollar. Instead, Snow suggested, Europe should do more to boost its own economy.

Markets have pushed the euro up from about US\$1.20 over the past two months in a surge labeled “brutal” by European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet. Economists say President George W. Bush has little incentive to act because the lower dollar helps U.S. exporters.

German officials have played down hopes of action this weekend, insisting that exchange rates aren’t formally on the agenda. Finance Minister Hans Eichel called this week for a “joint position” from the United States, Europe and Japan, but avoided the issue in an opening address on Saturday.

“Issues such as safeguarding long-term growth, dealing with demographic challenges and creating an institutional framework for domestic financial markets are at the center of our meeting,” he said.

“It’s pretty clear that the Americans have no major interest in a stronger dollar at the moment,” said Stefan Schneider, an economist at Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt. “There is unlikely to be much more than some kind of remark that erratic and strongly fluctuating exchange rate developments are bad.”

“The conflicts of interest are just too great,” he said. “I cannot imagine (Bush) effectively weakening the economy because the rest of the world has a problem with the American current account deficit or the dollar’s exchange rate.”

The current account is the broadest measure of foreign trade.

At most, officials at the Berlin meeting could send signals that Asian currencies should absorb more of the dollar’s fall, Schneider said. The Bush administration has been pressuring China to stop pegging its currency at a fixed rate to the greenback.

“I don’t think it is up to the euro to bear the brunt of the problem. We should also be seeing more flexibility in monetary policy, in Japan and China in particular,” German Economics and Labor Minister Wolfgang Clement said Friday during a visit to Thailand. “We should appeal to the U.S. administration to reduce its public sector deficit.”

Beijing is sending its finance minister to the Group of 20 meeting—but not People’s Bank of China governor Zhou Xiaochuan, whose responsibilities include the yuan’s exchange rate.

Analysts say concerted action like the Plaza Accords of 1985, under which the United States, West Germany, Japan, France and Britain agreed to joint action to tamp down a too-strong

## Bush, Hu discuss Chinese currency plans

**SANTIAGO, Chile** (AP)—Chinese President Hu Jintao told President Bush that China remains committed to a plan to allow its currency to float freely against the dollar, a senior U.S. administration official said.

The talks apparently satisfied Bush, who summarized the economic discussions as an effort “to make sure the relationship is fair and equitable on both sides.”

Earlier Saturday, People’s Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan said that while China wants to move to a more liberal exchange rate regime, now isn’t the time to discuss specifics.

China could widen the trading band for the yuan against the dollar, but Zhou said China was still implementing the reforms needed to move to a freer exchange rate. He made the comments in Berlin at a meeting of the Group of 20 industrialized nations.

The topic of China’s currency, the yuan, was not discussed during ministerial level meetings at the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum this week before the summit started.

American manufacturers contend that China’s practice of pegging the yuan to the dollar at a fixed rate has led the Chinese currency to be undervalued by as much as 40 percent, giving Chinese products a tremendous competitive advantage

**PARIS** (AP)—The Paris Club of creditor nations on Saturday was debating a plan to write off as much as 80 percent of the debts Iraq owes them, a key step in the United States’ push to ease the financial burden on the nation as it tries to rebuild.

U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow and German Finance Minister Hans Eichel sealed the agreement, Eichel said earlier Saturday, adding that he expected the Paris Club would approve the deal.

Iraq owes around \$42 billion to the members of the Paris Club, a grouping of 19 countries including the United States, Japan, Russia and European nations.

An agreement by the Paris Club to forgive its Iraqi debt would be a significant step toward freeing the country from paying interest on the money owed just as it struggles to put its economy back on its feet.

Still, Iraq owes another \$80 billion to various Arab governments.

“We agreed that there should be a write-off of debts in several stages amounting to 80 percent in total,” Eichel told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting of finance officials from the Group of 20 industrial and developing countries.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder later stressed that “there is no final outcome—there are discussions, particularly with France,” which opposed last year’s U.S.-led war in Iraq and previously had called for a lower level of debt relief.

Still, the German-U.S. agreement was being discussed by the Paris Club and “our expectation is that it will be accepted,” said Eichel’s spokesman, Joerg Mueller.

“We have made substantial progress today - we’re advancing toward an agreement. Several details still need to be examined,” said a French official close to the Paris Club talks, being held in the French capital.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said an agreement could be announced Sunday.

Eichel said the proposal would see 30 percent of Iraq’s Paris Club debt written off immediately, another 30 percent in a second stage “tied to a program of the International Monetary Fund” and a further 20 percent “linked to the success of this program.”



SHELL VISOR  
CMYK

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**John Pangelinan** PUBLISHER  
**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### China's just too hot

China's struggle to slow—without crashing—its overheated economy is of vital interest well beyond the Great Wall. The economic boom is evident in the hundreds of construction cranes towering over Shanghai and in commodity prices worldwide that have been driven higher by China's appetite for imported oil, steel and cement. China's eye-popping feat of doubling exports in recent years is evident in the millions of jobs being created there, as well as the flood of cheap but attractive goods filling ships that jam the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, Calif.

The 64,000-yuan question is whether China's central bankers will be able to throttle back torrid growth or whether an economy fueled by cheap money flowing from state-owned and black-market banks will crash. If the latter happens, the repercussions will be felt worldwide as China's demand for imports shrivels and the resulting gluts push commodity prices down.

At the heart of Beijing's challenge is restructuring large, state-owned banks that for decades ignored basic rules. At least 20 percent of outstanding loans held by the big banks are in default. At the same time, an underground banking system continues to pump the equivalent of billions of dollars into the economy. The result is a tough balancing act, said James Barth, a Milken Institute senior fellow who traveled to China to advise its central bankers: "Cut off too much credit, and the economy slows too much and you've got social unrest."

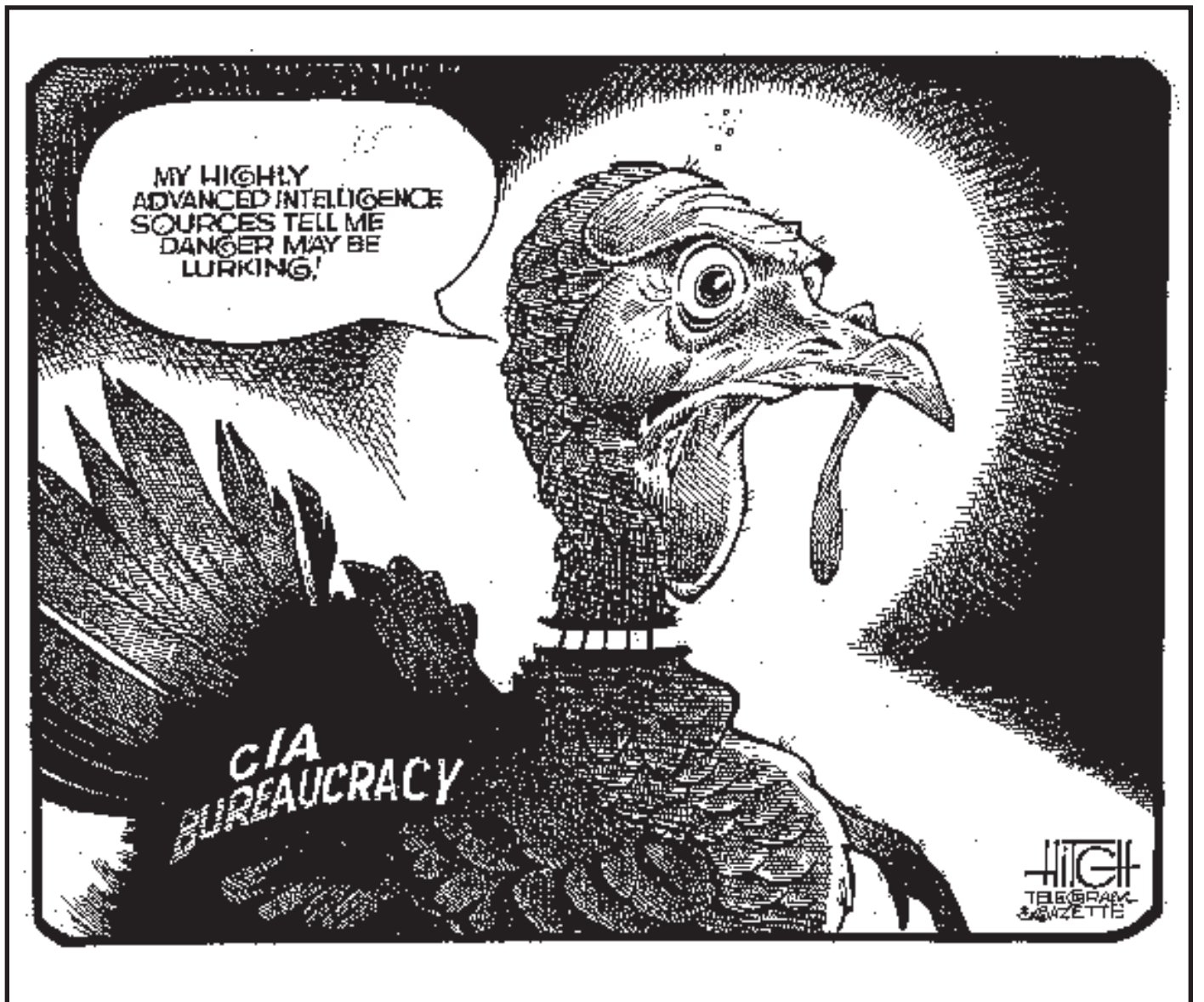
It isn't all gloom and doom. Inflation hasn't been the problem many had feared. Direct foreign investment in manufacturing plants and other long-term projects continues and, in a bid to cool the economy, central bankers on Oct. 28 nudged up interest rates for the first time in nine years. Beijing also is developing NAFTA-like trade relationships with members of the Association of South-east Asian Nations. Japan now ships \$80 billion worth of goods to China annually, up from \$20 billion in 1999.

The United States also stands to benefit if China can make an orderly transition into the global economy. General Motors hopes to sell more cars in the world's most populous country. U.S. financial institutions hope to enter China's burgeoning banking services market, and the National Basketball Association, which last month played exhibition games before packed houses in Beijing and Shanghai, hopes to double the number of stores selling league merchandise to Chinese fans of Houston Rocket star Yao Ming.

For all that to happen, China must carefully slow an economy that continues to run at a fast-break pace. The higher interest rates should help. Beijing also has signaled its willingness to uncouple the yuan from the dollar, a move that could further cool the economy, as well as ease trade tensions with the United States. But to use another NBA analogy, China's bid for a soft economic landing is anything but a slam dunk.

(c) 2004, Los Angeles Times

# Opinion



## Terrorism overlooked

By TION KWA  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Iraq and Afghanistan aren't the only fronts in the global war against terrorism. There is also Indonesia. Yet this nation, home to the world's largest population of Muslims, has consistently failed to attract an appropriate level of attention from the American public and Washington. This has proved damaging to the security interests of the United States and of its friends and allies in Asia. For if Iraq and Afghanistan represent America's determination to fight the war against terrorism on its own terms, in Indonesia al-Qaida calls the shots and faces no appreciable effective resistance. There, its Southeast Asian franchise holder, the organization known as Jemaah Islamiah (JI), has launched one major terrorist attack each year since Sept. 11, 2001, against Western and Western-allied interests—an unprecedented rate of success.

One year, one month and one day after the Sept. 11 attacks, a massive bomb ripped through the heart of Bali, killing 202 people, including 88 young Australian vacationers. This continues to be the single largest terrorist attack after those on New York and the Pentagon. In 2003 a suicide bomb attack on the JW Marriott Hotel in Jakarta killed 12 people. And this year, a car bomb blew up in front of the Australian Embassy, killing nine.

While numerous arrests have been made in connection with the attacks, resulting in dozens of convictions with sentences ranging from jail time to the death penalty, no reasonable evidence suggests that JI has been crippled. Its operatives are apparently disposable; as militants are arrested or killed, others are ready to take up where they left off.

There is no question that Jemaah Islamiah holds the advantage on the Indonesian front. And the blame for allowing this to happen lies equally with Jakarta, for its ambivalence toward international terrorism, and with Washington, for its failure to convince Indonesia of the threat and to raise that country's capacity for fighting terrorism.

Despite the carnage JI has caused, it pales in comparison with other incidents of violence in the islands. The nearly 30-year separatist insurrection in Aceh—the province in the north of Sumatra island—has taken 12,000 lives. Then there is Papua, and continuing sectarian violence in the Moluccas islands and Sulawesi. Moreover, JI's targets are foreigners, so for many Indonesians, it just doesn't seem to be their country's problem.

They are not wholly to blame for this view: Their government isn't even convinced that there is such a thing as JI. As the newly elected president, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, puts it, he needs "strong legal evidence" of JI's existence in Indonesia. This is like

refusing to believe al-Qaida exists because it isn't registered as an NGO. If the government can't even make a clear admission that JI exists, it cannot effectively fight it.

This ambivalence has led to at least one irony. As prosecutors try again to build a case against Abubakar Baasyir, the influential radical Muslim cleric usually cited as the spiritual leader of JI, they allege that he passed on a decree from Osama bin Laden to "kill Americans and their allies" to students at a JI training camp in the southern Philippines. But how can prosecutors allege an Indonesian connection to JI when, according to the government, JI's status in Indonesia has not even been established? Contradictions such as this can only hinder counterterrorism.

U.S. policy toward Indonesia is not without its own problems. The United States continues to resist the best possible means for quickly establishing evidence on JI: handing over an alleged JI terrorist, Riduan Isamuddin, better known as Hambali, to Indonesia for trial. Hambali is said to be the former operational chief of JI and, as such, is the highest-ranking officer in custody. But since his capture last year in Thailand and immediate transfer to U.S. custody, American authorities have refused to provide any access to him.

No one has a stronger claim to Hambali than Indonesia. He is alleged to have been implicated in terrorist plots that directly affect Indonesian sovereignty. An open trial of Hambali would lay out what Jemaah Islamiah is and what its activities in Indonesia amount to. There is no better way of establishing for the public JI's existence and terrorist ideology.

Equally important in fighting terrorism is for the United States to resume military relations with Indonesia. They were cut in 1999 amid accusations of human rights abuses in a bloody rampage following East Timor's vote for independence. At a time when terrorists are likely to be testing weak spots for future attacks, the Indonesian military should not be isolated. If the U.S. Congress, which continues to insist on the restriction, believes that the military must improve its human rights record, then surely joint training with U.S. troops is a better solution than haughty diffidence.

Indonesia needs to acknowledge Jemaah Islamiah's existence, thereby allowing Jakarta to make prudent, credible policies for dealing with the group. And the best way the United States can support this front in the war on terrorism is to more fully engage Jakarta's law enforcement and military institutions. Otherwise, Jemaah Islamiah will continue to call the shots in Indonesia.

*The writer is the former editorial page editor of the Far Eastern Economic Review.*



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# JD was here

James Dominic Sablan is a burly young lad. Among the 108 6<sup>th</sup> graders that attend my social studies class, J. D. is a presence hard to miss. Tall though not gangly, his stature is visible without being intrusive or repressive. He is quiet and gentle most of the time, but his peers are clear that one would not cross his path lightly.

Before the school broke off for the Thanksgiving holidays, J. D. got hold of some sticky labels and paped the front of the social studies and language arts class doors with “J. D. was here” signs. As an act of a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, this was hardly surprising. In the long and globally widespread “Kilroy was here” tradition that mars many a visit to popular parks and remote cultural sites around the world, J. D. is a minor and infrequent player. Also, it took me two weeks last month to white-out the many one-liners that previous 6<sup>th</sup> graders had left on their Ancient Civilization textbooks, all declaring in one form or another that someone had indeed “been here.” J. D.’s is hardly a solo performer. Indeed, students fight over the chore of wiping the chalkboard clean after each class session. Once the permission to erase the board is given, a horde of flailing arms would thrust on to the slate, leaving chalk marks of various designs declaring that “so-and-so was here.”

A quick ocular survey of public facilities, table tops and arm chair undersides, school bathroom and hallway graffiti, and textbook spontaneous editorial comments and inscriptions will reveal how widespread the “so-and-so was here” occurrence is being practiced. The habit is being addressed head on in many classrooms to discourage, if not totally abolish, its frequency, but the threat of harsh disciplinary measures had not been effective in curtailing the practice. One suspects that a more fundamental question need be asked: “Whence comes the urge to declare one’s presence, and to let it be known far and wide?”

Leaving evidence of the significance and meaning of one’s life is a universal human preoccupation. Currently showing locally is Oliver Stone’s “Alexander.” Critics have ravaged the cinematic merits of Mr. Stone’s latest rendition. It is a movie “only the history buffs” will love, we are told. And even then, History Channel’s upcoming scholarly presentation on the sub-

ject might be a better fare. My wife confessed that only did she have a hard time keeping up not only with the historical thread, the geographical locations, and the characters, she could not follow the complex psychosocial Oedipus complex overlay Stone wove into the film’s plot. It is also not easy to dismiss, given Mr. Stone’s record, the movie’s allusion to the current events abiding in the area between the Euphrates and the Indus Rivers, particularly George W’s persevering and stolid resolve to have Americans be a prominent and vital fixture in the region.

For this musing, my interest is Alexander’s habit of leaving “Alexander was here” signs all over the place. Most prominent, of course, is Ptolemy’s Alexandria of Egypt whose legendary library was used as an image in the early marketing of the personal computer. Apple Computer aimed to wire every home around the world to the wisdom of the Library of Alexandria. From the Kyber Pass up the Hindu Kush, to the lower Indus Valley of the Mohenjo-Daro fame, and points leading west to Babylon, sites named Alexandria flourished in the wake of the young Macedonian’s forcible spread of Greek civilization across the eastern section of the old Persian Empire. In a stroke of political genius, Alexander retained the ruling houses he conquered to continue with their rule, making the introduction of new ways palatable to the local culture. Added the despotic Persian rule he replaced, Alexander proved to be a breath of fresh air hailed as a liberator, and not as a despised colonizing presence.

Even in good old U.S.A., a little Virginia settlement across the Potomac, which now services such institutional behemoths of the Capitol City as the Department of Defense’s Pentagon and the National Ronald Reagan International Airport, is named Alexandria.

Alexander’s legacy earned him the appellation “The Great.” Historians have charted the same thread on other legacies from Julius Caesar to Colin Powell. Here we might find a clue on how to deal with the insistence of the J. D.s, the Camilles and the Kevins, the Merabels and the Michaels, the Simeons and the Shaneeses, the Jodans and the Jhaneekas, the Richmonds and the Rantas, to have their presence prominently known. We might, with all pedagogical subtlety, push the question: “J. D. ‘the who’ was here.” That

By **JAIME VERGARA**

*Vergara is a Social Studies 6th grade teacher at San Vicente Elementary School and writes a regular column for the Saipan Tribune.*



shifts the emphasis from the usually disciplinary objective question of why one is posting signs against regulations, to the introspective questions of identity, “Who do you say you are?” and vocation. “What will you do about it?”

Both questions would be similar to WWII Holocaust-fame Victor Frankl’s “search for meaning.” One would heed his witness that meaning is ultimately the self-story one chooses at any given moment under any condition, not a function of genetics, social status, economic class, circumstances or opportune times. It is the story one tells about one’s life, the affirmation of which can be avowed even in the most horrendous of situations like Frankl’s incarceration in a genocidal camp.

The period between Thanksgiving Day and New Year is in the western hemisphere a time of deep reflection about who we are, and what we do with our lives—of being and becoming. These were questions once reserved for royalties and those unencumbered by the daily preoccupations of the working class. Not anymore. With the spreading emphasis on the value of each individual life, the democratization of meaning has left the choice of creating one’s identity and vocation a matter of every individual’s option.

So, after affirming that J. D. in fact “is here,” and getting J. D. to clean up the classroom doors on aesthetic rather than punitive grounds, one must now further ask all the J. D. inscribers: Who does J. D. say s/he is, and what does s/he intend to do about it? I believe that if teachers do ask the questions, and the J. D.’s of the world deign to answer them, the learning process might actually be significantly deepened.

## Letters to the Editor

# Single, German, 36-year-old male

Dear Editor,

For many years, I’ve been very interested in the people and life in the Marianas and therefore, I always wanted a pen pal from Saipan. Is it possible for you to publish my email address in the next issue and ask your readers, if they would like to correspond with a German male, 36 years old?

I am still single and have lots of hobbies and interests and I only write in German and English. I really would like to correspond with someone from Saipan through email if possible—it would be great if you could help me with my request or publish this letter in your paper.

Thank you very much for your kind help and support.

Sincerely,  
Torsten Behrens  
tb21680@aol.com

# Kudos to Lavena

Congratulations Lavena Castro Babauta—Teacher of the Year. Lavena has described her passion for teaching as resulting from the students’ eagerness and “longing for learning.” This is truly the driving force for teachers. But let me add another “driving force” footnote. I was fortunate to have Lavena as a student and worked very closely with her dad. The joy that a teacher gets late in their career if they stay in the community where they teach is seeing the success of a person like Lavena finally be recognized and applauded. Lavena, you’re beautiful! Congratulations!

Roger N. Ludwick

# Bush’s immigration gamble

By **TAMAR JACOBY**  
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

President Bush could hardly have started his second term with a more surprising move, announcing he will press ahead with immigration reforms that were widely denounced, on the right and the left, when he proposed them in January. But as strange as it may seem to many Washington insiders, sometimes political leaders do things for reasons other than to be popular.

Immigration—particularly illegal immigration—is a difficult issue. The kinds of reforms that are needed aren’t easy to explain to voters. And Bush, who risks as much as he stands to gain politically by tackling the problem, deserves credit for recognizing that the system is broken and stepping up to fix it with the only kind of reform he believes will work: a guest worker program.

Opponents of reform often attack it as mere pandering—or, as the put-down goes, “Hispandering.” The implication being that changes of the kind the president has in mind aren’t good for the nation but only for one interest group—Hispanic voters.

This is far from a sure-fire strategy. For one thing, according to most polls, few Hispanics vote on the basis on a candidate’s stance on immigration. Many of these voters are now second-generation Americans, and surveys show that they care most about the same issues as their Anglo countrymen: the economy, education, values, security. Immigration trails far down the list. At best, opinion research suggests, they see immigration as a threshold issue: They mistrust politicians who are overtly hostile to newcomers, and a candidate’s sympathetic stance may persuade them to consider his views on other questions. But doing the right thing on immigration is rarely enough to close the deal.

True, an immigration initiative could conceivably pay off over the long term. Hispanics—even second- and third-generation Hispanics—could react to an overhaul much as blacks reacted to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, flocking all but permanently to the party that passed the landmark legislation. But that’s not how Hispanics reacted to President Reagan’s equally sweeping immigration reforms in the mid-1980s, and the remote possibility that they will do so now hardly seems like an argument for bucking a majority of Anglo voters.

So why is Bush taking on the thankless issue of immigration? I believe it is because he sees the consequences for all Americans of our current dysfunctional policy. Not just Hispanics but all Americans suffer when entire industries—agriculture, hospitality, food processing, landscaping, healthcare, construction—can’t find the workers they need to grow and are forced to operate outside the law. Not just Hispanics but all Americans lose when our border becomes an international joke, something the world knows we can’t or won’t enforce. All Americans face increased risks when we lose the ability to verify the identities of those in our midst.

And we should all be concerned for our democratic values when we find ourselves farming our dirtiest, least-dignified jobs out to a permanent underclass of foreign workers—people who, because of their illegal status, can rarely hope to become full-fledged Americans.

By and large, immigration is good for the country: Driven here mostly by economic supply and demand, immigrants do jobs that need to be done, and they bring much-needed vitality and patriotic spirit. The costs arise when immigrants come illegally, undermining the rule of law. So why not maximize the benefits of immigration while easing the costs associated with an illegal flow by giving the migrant laborers who now come illicitly an orderly, legal way to enter the country.

The challenge for the president will be to explain this to the public, and that may not be easy. But that’s not the same as impossible. After all, most people are open to changes—even counterintuitive changes—that turn out to be in their self-interest.

Survey after survey of Anglo voters show that when it comes to immigration what they want is for the government to take control of the border. They want to restore the rule of law and enforce it, and that is exactly what the president’s reform plan promises. Enforcement alone will not solve the problem. We’ve tried that, cracking down sharply on the border, for over a decade now. Attempting to enforce an impractical, over-reaching law—in this case, unrealistic quotas—never works.

But a new, realistic law, backed up by smarter enforcement on the border and in the workplace, can do the job. That’s the case the president must make to the public, not because it’s politic but because it’s right—and in the end, that will persuade voters.

*Jacoby is a fellow at the Manhattan Institute.*



# Nation

## Peterson jurors face wrenching choice

By PAUL ELIAS  
AP WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—If the experience of those involved in past death penalty cases is any guide, the jurors in Scott Peterson’s murder trial will have to grapple with raw and deep religious, moral and legal issues as they decide whether he lives or dies.

Arguments in the penalty phase are scheduled to begin Tuesday, but experts say many of the jurors may already have made up their minds about what punishment the 32-year-old former fertilizer salesman deserves.

In 2001, a California jury faced a case that holds some similarities to the Peterson trial. Todd Garton was a philandering husband convicted of the shocking murder of his young and very pregnant wife. Jurors said he deserved to die.

“I signed the document that the jury found for death and I think about that a lot,” said Fred Castagna, who served as jury foreman. “It was emotional during deliberations, but I don’t lose sleep over it.”

Jurors who have sent people to death row say even though they were overwhelmingly convinced of their guilt, set-

ting on the death penalty was one of the toughest decisions of their lives.

“I have strong religious beliefs and this wasn’t like I had to decide what kind of ice cream to buy,” said Brian Bianco, who served as foreman of the jury that convicted Richard Allen Davis of kidnapping and killing 12-year-old Polly Klaas.

Nevertheless, like Castagna, Bianco said he has never doubted that he made the right decision in sending Davis to death row after four agonizing days of deliberations.

It took a jury just 70 minutes to condemn Garton, who was convicted of hiring a hit man to kill his 29-year-old pregnant wife.

“There wasn’t any real reason to mull it over,” Castagna said. “It was pretty clear that this guy was evil, that he had concocted this scheme to get his wife killed.”

Garton, convicted of two first-degree murder charges, is one of three men in California sentenced to die because a fetus perished during a slaying. Peterson could be the fourth.

Castagna said the five months of sometimes graphic testimony during the guilt phase of the trial “pretty much drove” the death verdict.

“You can’t help but consider the fact that you’ll have to decide punishment if you find him guilty,” Castagna said. “That’s always in the back of your mind, but you try not to let it influence you.”

Determining punishment before deliberations in the penalty phase is a common experience for many death penalty jurors, according to an ongoing study by the Capital Jury Project at Northeastern University. About half the 1,300 capital case jurors questioned for the study said they had made their sentencing decisions during the guilt phase of the trial, according to chief investigator William Bowers.

“That’s perhaps the most profound thing we found,” said Bowers, who sometimes serves as an expert witness for those facing the death penalty. “That’s a major departure of how it’s supposed to work. You’re supposed to wait for instructions.”

What’s more, Bowers said that many jurors vote for death because they fear the killer will someday be set free, even if a sentence of life without parole is an option, as it is in the Peterson case.

“There’s a pervasive anxiety that the defendant will be back on the streets,” Bowers said.

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# Accidental strafing divides NJ region

## LITTLE EGG HARBOR, N.J.

(AP)—The strafing of a school by a National Guard F-16 fighter jet has divided residents of the fast-growing region around the Warren Grove Gunnery Range. Some fear for their safety, while others consider it profoundly unpatriotic to question the military during a time of war.

The National Guard is still investigating what it describes as an accidental release of gunfire. Results are expected in about two weeks.

The night custodian of the Little Egg Harbor Intermediate School was going about her rounds when she heard the patter of what sounded like footsteps on the roof. She thought someone might be running atop the building, but police found nothing. The next morning, authorities realized what had made the sound: 20mm rounds fired by the F-16 during a nighttime training flight over a target range four miles away.

"Had it missed the school and hit one of our houses, we'd be talking about dead bodies now," said Township Committeeman Arthur Midgley. "We can't have this. This must never happen again."

But Terry Hickman, a 10-year Army special forces veteran, defended the range and the pilots who train there.

"Let 'em alone; they're over there putting their lives on the line for us," Hickman said as he prepared to hunt deer in Bass River, near the edge of the range. "That guy (the pilot) probably feels so bad about this. He's probably going to get sent overseas and he might not even come back. As long as no one got hurt, this whole thing should just be forgotten."

According to the military, at 9:02 p.m. on Nov. 3, a veteran pilot from the 113th Wing of the District of Columbia National Guard, based at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, was streaking across the sky 7,000 feet above the 9,416-acre range, which abuts parts of Little Egg Harbor, Stafford, Tuckerton and Bass River.

The pilot, a major whose name has not been released and who has been grounded pending the outcome of the inquiry, looked back over his shoulder for a split second, just as the wing-mounted gun fired a burst of 27 rounds. The 20mm cannon fires at a rate of about

6,000 rounds per minute.

The lead rounds followed an arcing trajectory that brought them to the ground four miles away. Eight bullets punched through the roof of the school and at least one lodged in a child's desk.

The pilot immediately radioed the tower that something had gone wrong and headed back to Andrews.

The range is shut down until the investigation is completed.

The pilot's commander, Maj. Gen. David F. Wherley Jr. Wherley, told reporters in Washington there were three possible explanations: plane malfunction, computer error or pilot error.

When the range was opened in 1942 during World War II, there were 2,000 people living nearby; now there are more than 50,000.

Lisamarie Saccomagno's daughter attends the school.

"Because we're at war now, I'm very sensitive to all the military's burdens," she said. "We all want to be safe and secure. But we're also concerned about our children. I'm afraid something's going to go wrong. We really need to know where those bullets are going."



The Athos I tanker shown between a dry dock station is listing on the Delaware River near Paulsboro, N.J. Saturday, Nov. 27, 2004. On Friday the tanker spilled 30,000 gallons of heavy crude oil into the Delaware River between Philadelphia and southern New Jersey.

## Oil spill threatens Del. river wildlife

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A tanker spilled 30,000 gallons of crude oil into the Delaware River between Philadelphia and southern New Jersey, creating a 20-mile-long slick that killed dozens of birds and threatened other wildlife, federal officials said Saturday.

Private contractors were called in to skim oil from the surface of the water and place thousands of feet of boom to contain the floating slick.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials said 50 birds were dead from the spill, 300 others were affected and fish also were threatened. A stretch of the busy river was closed to commercial and recreational traffic while the spill was being cleaned up.

"We're working very quickly

and diligently to expedite the cleanup," said Coast Guard Petty Officer John Edwards.

Two tugboats were guiding the ship to a pier Friday night when a tugboat skipper noticed the spill, said Coast Guard Capt. Jonathan Sarubbi, officer in charge of the Port of Philadelphia. The ship listed 8 degrees to the left at about the same time, he said.

The crew notified the Coast Guard and began transferring oil from the leaking tank to another tank on board. The leak was stopped within an hour.

The cause of the spill was still under investigation, Sarubbi said.

The tanker, the Athos I, registered in the Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus, was carrying 325,000 barrels of

oil from Venezuela, said Jim Lawrence, a spokesman for the vessel's owner, Greek shipping company Tsakos Shipping and Trading SA.

The nearly 750-foot-long ship, built in 1983, was last out of the water for maintenance in April, Lawrence said. He said it had never before spilled oil.

It was the worst spill on the Delaware River since 1995, when strong wind pushed a tanker away from a refinery dock in West Deptford, N.J., snapping a fuel line that spilled 40,000 gallons. In 1989, a tanker ran aground near Claymont, Del., spilling 300,000 gallons of heating oil into the river.

About one million barrels of oil come through the Port of Philadelphia each day.



## Bush calls on Americans to volunteer, give

### CRAWFORD, Texas (AP)—

President Bush issued a holiday-season call on Americans to volunteer and give to charity—"to share our blessings with the least among us." He singled out for special praise those who have given time and energy to U.S. troops stationed around the world.

"The greatest challenges of our time have come to the men and women who protect our nation," Bush said in his weekly radio address Saturday.

"Like generations before them, today's armed forces have liberated captive peoples and shown compassion for the suffering and delivered hope to the oppressed," Bush said. "In the past year, they have fought the terrorists abroad so that we do not have to face those enemies here at home."

Bush said there was much to appreciate this Thanksgiving weekend. "We're grateful for our beautiful country, and for the prosperity we enjoy. We're grateful for the chance to live, work and worship in freedom," Bush said.

"We also recognize our duty to share our blessings with the least among us," the president said. "Throughout the holiday season, schools, churches, synagogues and other generous organizations gather food and clothing for their neighbors in need. Many young people give part of their holiday to volunteer at homeless shelters or food pantries.

"On Thanksgiving, and on every day of the year, America is a more hopeful nation because of the volunteers who serve the weak and the vulnerable."

## Largest quake since Oct. hits St. Helens

### MOUNT St. HELENS (AP)—

A 3.1-magnitude earthquake shook the crater at Mount St. Helens on Saturday, the strongest quake at the volcano since mid-October.

U.S. Geological Survey scientists said they did not believe a major eruption was imminent—just a continuation of the minor ash and steam eruptions that have been occurring since the mountain reawakened this fall.

Saturday's earthquake appeared to be a larger version of the small earthquakes scientists have registered about once a minute for the past several weeks, the USGS said in a news release. Scientists hoped good weather Sunday and Monday would

allow them to get a better look at the volcano.

A flurry of small earthquakes beginning in late September were followed by a burst of steam and ash on Oct. 1—the first in a series of small eruptions. None of the early earthquakes measured more than 3.2 in magnitude.

A new lava formation began building in the crater soon after, with magma reaching the floor at the rate of 7 to 8 cubic meters—about one large dump truck load—every second. The new dome and the uplifted floor beneath it now cover 70 acres and stand 750 feet high.

Mount St. Helens, about 100 miles south of Seattle, blew apart in May 1980, killing 57 people and covering the region with gritty ash. The eruption took off the top 1,313 feet of the peak.

## Paper refuses military court's subpoena

DENVER (AP)—The Denver Post is resisting a military court subpoena for notes taken by one of its reporters about an alleged gang rape of an 18-year-old woman at an Air Force base.

The case is believed to be one of only a handful in which the military has sought a reporter's unpublished material, the Post said. In most cases, military courts have ruled such material is protected from disclosure.

The reporter, Miles Moffeit, wrote in March that a woman said she was gang-raped in June 2003 by four fellow airmen stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base at Wichita Falls, Texas. Matthew Monroe has been charged in connection with the rape and faces a general court-martial.

Earlier this month, a judge advocate for the Air Force demanded on behalf of Monroe that all "notes, memoranda, videotapes, audiotapes and any other information and documents" gathered by Moffeit be turned over to the Air Force.

The Post refused the request, citing protection under the First Amendment. A hearing in Texas is tentatively scheduled for the coming week.

The newspaper's attorneys, Tom Kelley and Steve Zansberg, filed a motion Tuesday calling the request a "blatant fishing expedition" by the defense.

## Crown brings new 'bling' to Rose Parade

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Nearly a century of her predecessors wore rhinestones, but

the next Rose Queen will don a crown of real diamonds and pearls valued at \$100,000.

Jeweler Mikimoto designed the crown that Rose Queen Ashley Moreno will wear in the annual Rose Parade on New Year's morning. The jeweler has also designed six matching tiaras for the "princesses."

Moreno said the new crown "took a bit of getting used to" because its height demands straight posture and a level head. The tiara weighs about a pound and features overlapping lines and heart-shaped loops studded with pearls and diamonds.

The old sterling and cubic zirconia crown weighed five pounds, forcing some former queens to perform neck-strengthening exercises and take aspirin before the parade.

An early design for the crown featured the parade's trademark rose logo, but tournament officials nixed it in favor of a more classic design.

The contract calls for the crown to be worn in at least five Rose Parades.

## Boston zoo puts baby gorilla on view

BOSTON (AP)—With shutters clicking and cameras rolling, dozens of people crowded into the Franklin Park Zoo's indoor "tropical forest" on Saturday for the debut of its newest celebrity resident: a tiny 3-day-old western lowland gorilla.

Children with faces and hands pressed to the glass of the steamy enclosure gasped and oohed as Kiki the gorilla ambled from her nighttime quarters with her 4-pound baby tucked under her arm. Photographers leaned over the railings like paparazzi.

Kiki sauntered between areas of the enclosure, the baby held in her arms or hanging from her chest, as the crowds rushed from window to window to follow her movements. She eventually settled into a bed of straw, nibbling carrots, before laying down for a nap with the baby cradled in her arm.

The baby doesn't have a name yet because its gender won't be known for several months, until zoo officials can physically examine it without upsetting Kiki, said John Linehan, the zoo's president and CEO.

"Kiki has just hugged onto this baby since it was born. Since the moment we saw it, we haven't seen her put it down. She's protective of it, she holds it close, sometimes she stays away from us. She just seems to be reveling in



# Asia

## Southeast Asian ministers finalize accords

By **JIM GOMEZ**  
AP WRITER

**VIENTIANE, Laos (AP)**—Southeast Asian ministers on Saturday finalized a free trade pact with China and a host of other accords to be adopted at a leaders summit, but touchy topics like the lack of democracy in Myanmar and Islamic unrest in Thailand were swept under the rug.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations meeting was a prelude to a two-day summit starting Monday of the group's 10 leaders. They also will meet with heads of governments from China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

The summit is the first such international event for isolated, communist Laos, whose prime minister joined thousands of compatriots early Saturday at a golden-spired temple in the capital to pray for a successful meeting.

"I and all the Lao people are making merit today for the prosperity of the nation and wish that Lord Buddha will bless us for the peaceful success of the summit," Prime Minister Bounnhang Vorachith told The Associated Press.

Some 35 agreements are to be signed in Vientiane by the 16 countries, including one on creating a free trade area between ASEAN and China by 2010—a market of nearly 2 billion people with combined economies worth \$2.4 trillion.

Agreements will be signed to start talks for similar free trade areas with South Korea, Australia

and New Zealand. ASEAN and India plan an accord to cooperate in political, economic, science, technology, health and cultural spheres.

ASEAN comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Concerns over violence that killed 540 people this year in Thailand's Muslim-majority south clouded the run-up to the conference. But the topic wasn't raised formally by the foreign ministers and "is not on the agenda" for the summit, Lao spokesman Yong Chanthalangsy said.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has threatened a walk-out if the Muslim unrest is raised, saying the issue is domestic only. But Southeast Asian neighbors, especially Muslim-dominated Malaysia to the south, worry that the violence could destabilize the region.

"If anybody raises the issue, it is up to Thailand to respond ... and say: 'Don't worry this will not affect other ASEAN countries,'" Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid said.

Frustration over Myanmar's unfulfilled pledges to introduce democracy threatened to intrude on talks, but that too was not raised during the ministerial meeting, Yong said.

"The meeting was to prepare for the summit. Why should they concentrate on one country?" he said.

To pre-empt criticism, Myanmar's Foreign Minister Nyan Win said Friday that the junta is committed to holding



multiparty elections eventually despite its ouster last month of a relatively moderate prime minister, Gen. Khin Nyunt. He ducked questions on whether pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi would be freed from house arrest.

Vietnam's Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, center, smiles as he is greeted Saturday, Nov. 27, 2004, in Vientiane, Laos, on his arrival for the 10th ASEAN summit. Laos, one of the poorest nations in southeast Asia, is hosting the ASEAN summit for the first time.

AP

## Freed UN workers leave Kabul for homes

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Two U.N. workers who spent nearly a month in the hands of Afghan kidnappers left Kabul on Sunday as relatives and friends awaited their arrivals in Northern Ireland and Kosovo.

Annetta Flanagan and Shqipe Hebibi said goodbye to colleagues at Kabul airport before boarding a white U.N. plane that took off early Sunday.

The two were going first for a short, quiet vacation and will reach their homes "in a few more days," U.N. spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva said. He wouldn't say where.

Armed men seized the two women and Philippine diplomat Angelito Nayan on Oct. 28, the first abduction of foreigners in the Afghan capital since the fall of the Taliban three years ago.

The kidnapping stirred concern that Afghan militants were adopting the bloody tactics used by their insurgents in Iraq, but

the three were freed unharmed in Kabul on Tuesday.

The hostages have said they were well-treated, but have given few details of their ordeal, focusing on their desire to be reunited with loved ones and to get back to work. Nayan arrived back to Manila on Thursday.

The Afghan Interior Ministry, which led efforts to secure the trio's release, says it spent weeks negotiating with the kidnappers, whose identity remains obscure.

A British hotelier and former journalist said Friday he traveled to neighboring Pakistan to offer a "reward" of up to \$1.5 million to a Taliban splinter group ransom on behalf of a Kosovo-born businessman.

But the group, called Jaish-al-Muslimeen, or Army of Muslims, denies receiving any money and claims it released the three in return for a promise from the Afghan government to free 24 jailed comrades.

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# Pakistan downplays CIA report on leaks

By PAUL ALEXANDER  
AP WRITER

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan** (AP)—Pakistan on Saturday defended its efforts to halt leaks of nuclear technology amid suggestions that a new CIA report says a renegade scientist provided more help to Iran's nuclear weapons program than previously disclosed.

The CIA—which provides the U.S. Congress with six-month updates on reported efforts by Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea and Syria to obtain chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons technology—posted an unclassified version on its Web site this week.

Analyzing the report, The New York Times said it indicates that bomb-making designs provided by Abdul Qadeer Khan to Iran in the 1990s were more significant than Washington has said.

Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan criticized the Times report, saying it was “based on flimsy evidence, hearsay and snippets of conversations.

“The CIA report does not mention any ‘designs for weapons or bomb-making components.’ Weapons and bomb-making are the writer’s own creative insertions,” Masood Khan said Saturday.

“In the past year, Pakistan has conducted an inquiry to unearth an illicit network of international black-marketeers, dismantled it and shared the results of the inquiry transparently with the people of Pakistan.

“Pakistan has been cooperating with the IAEA and the international community to thwart international black-marketeers from proliferating sensitive nuclear technology.”

The International Atomic Energy Agency—the Vienna, Austria-based nuclear watchdog agency of the United Nations—has been investigating Iran's nuclear activities for about 18 months, but the agency remains unable to determine if nearly two decades of Iranian nuclear activities were purely peaceful or if the government had a secret weapons agenda.

Tehran says its activities were



Pakistan's nuclear program founder Abdul Qadeer Khan is shown in this July 2002 file photo taken in Islamabad, Pakistan.

for generating electricity, while the United States says they were for making weapons.

Iran and European negoti-

ators have reached a tentative compromise on a deal committing Tehran to freeze all uranium enrichment activities,

diplomats say, but the Iranian government still must approve the agreement.

A.Q. Khan, considered a national hero for leading the development of Pakistan's nuclear deterrent against rival India, admitted in February to passing nuclear technology to other countries. He was pardoned by President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, who cited his service to the nation, but he is under virtual house arrest in Islamabad.

“Iran's nuclear program received significant assistance in the past from the proliferation network headed by Pakistani scientist A.Q. Khan,” the CIA report said. “The A.Q. Khan network provided Iran with designs for Pakistan's older centrifuges as well as designs for more advanced and efficient models and components.”

It said Libya disclosed receiving similar assistance from A.Q. Khan, head of Pakistan's nuclear program from the 1970s until 2001.

“Even in cases where states took action to stem such trans-

fers, knowledgeable individuals or non-state purveyors of WMD- and missile-related materials and technology could act outside government constraints,” the report said.

“The exposure of the A.Q. Khan network and its role in supplying nuclear technology to Libya, Iran, and North Korea illustrate one form of this threat.”

The Times focused on the phrase “designs for more advanced and efficient models, and components,” indicating that “components” refers to weapons components.

The Times pointed out that American officials have publicly referred only to A.Q. Khan network's role in supplying Iran with designs for older Pakistani centrifuges used to enrich uranium but also have suspected it provided a warhead design, too.

Citing a tape it obtained of a closed-door speech to a private group, the paper quoted former CIA director George J. Tenet as describing A.Q. Khan as “at least as dangerous as Osama bin Laden” because of his role in providing nuclear technology to

## North Korea denounces removal of Kim portrait

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—North Korea on Saturday condemned news reports that portraits of totalitarian leader Kim Jong Il have been removed from public places, calling them “a foolish attempt to take the sun down from the sky.”

North Korea's state-run news agency, KCNA, said the reports were spread as part of a “psychological warfare” by the United States and other “hostile forces” to undermine the communist regime.

North Korea warned that the psychological warfare will further hamper international efforts to resolve a dispute over its nuclear weapons programs.

“This is part of an anti-North Korean racket aimed at tainting the lofty authority of our supreme leadership and creating a false impression that there is a problem within our republic,” KCNA said in a dispatch monitored by South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

“Any plot to defame our supreme leadership is nothing more than a foolish attempt to take the sun down from the sky,” KCNA said.

Kim Jong Il, who inherited power from his late father and founding President Kim Il Sung, is “the destiny of our people and the destiny of our socialism,” the dispatch said.

It added that the North Korean military and people's trust in Kim “is getting stronger as the times pass.”

Russia's Itar-Tass news agency, citing unidentified diplomats, reported last week that portraits of Kim were being

removed from buildings in the secretive North. Some news media in South Korea, Japan and the United States have since carried similar reports.

On Saturday, KCNA said, “That kind of thing has never happened and will never happen.”

Kim and his late father are the focus of an intense official cult of personality in North Korea, and their portraits are hung in all public places. People also wear rappel pins showing the images of the father—and less frequently the son. The father and son are routinely eulogized as the “Great Leader” or the “Sun of the 21st Century.”

Also Saturday, North Korea's state-run daily Minju Joson accused Washington of trying to topple the North Korean regime by smuggling tiny radios into the isolated country, where all state-issued radios are preset to receive only government signals.

“Their escalated anti-(North) moves will result in nothing but completely checking the solution of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula and bedeviling the relations of stand-off between the (North) and the U.S.,” the newspaper said.

North Korea is locked in a dispute with the United States and its allies over its nuclear program.

North Korea is one of the world's most secretive, tightly controlled societies. Outsiders who try to follow political and economic developments there often are forced to rely on sketchy, secondhand information and details gleaned from the government's rare public acts.

## ASIAN Briefs

### Muslim extremist leader dies in shootout

**ZAMBOANGA, Philippines** (AP)—Government troops killed a leader of the notorious Muslim extremist group Abu Sayyaf in a shootout in the southern Philippines, officials said Sunday.

Munap Manialah, also known as Commander Munap, was shot dead late Saturday in a firefight with Philippine army and navy troops in southern Basilan island's Isabela city, Philippine army spokesman Maj. Bartolome Bacarro said in a statement. A trooper was slightly wounded in the shootout.

Soldiers raided Manialah's hideout after civilians tipped off the military about his presence in Isabela's remote village of Menzi, Philippine navy spokeswoman Lt. Nancy Pastor said.

Bacarro said Manialah is wanted for murder and the Philippine government has offered a \$6,241 bounty for his capture.

Washington has blacklisted the Abu Sayyaf—notorious for kidnappings and beheadings—as a terrorist group, and has offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to the capture of its top leaders, including Abu Sayyaf chief Khaddafy Janjalani.

### Mine blast in China traps 187 workers

**BEIJING** (AP)—A gas explosion tore through a central Chinese coal mine on Sunday, trapping at least 187 miners, the government said.

The accident occurred in the state-owned Chenjiashan coal mine in Shaanxi province at 7:20 a.m. when more than 200 workers were underground, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It did not give an exact number of miners in the shaft.

By 9 a.m., some 80 miners had been rescued, Xinhua said.

A man who answered the telephone at the government office of Yao County, where the mine is located, confirmed that there had been an accident but refused to provide any more details. He said the accident was being investigated.

During its noon newscast, state television said the explosion caused “big casualties” but did not elaborate.

China's mines are the world's most dangerous, with thousands of deaths reported every year due to explosions, fires, cave-ins and flooding often blamed on lax safety rules and lack of required equipment.

### Afghan bomb wounds three German troops

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—A remote-controlled bomb exploded near a vehicle carrying German soldiers in northern Afghanistan, injuring three of them, NATO said Saturday.

The homemade bomb damaged one of the two military vehicles carrying soldiers on patrol near Kunduz on Friday evening, a military statement said. The casualties, whose names were not released, were treated for hearing difficulties at a military camp in Kunduz, it said. Their injuries were described as minor.

The Germans are part of the NATO-run International Security Assistance Force, which patrols most of northern Afghanistan, as well as the capital Kabul, with 8,500 troops.

A spokesman for the force, Canadian Lt. Cdr. Ken Mackillop, said a pamphlet found near the scene threatened a “number of groups” without mentioning ISAF.

Foreign troops regularly come under attack in Afghanistan, particularly the separate 18,000-strong American force pursuing Taliban and al-Qaida holdouts in the south and east. A homemade bomb killed two U.S. soldiers and wounded another in southern Uruzgan province on Wednesday.

### Maoist rebels reject Nepalese peace talks

**KATMANDU, Nepal** (AP)—Maoist rebels on Saturday rejected the latest offer and deadline set by the Nepalese government for peace talks, saying they would only agree to negotiations with international mediators present.

The government said Thursday it was giving the rebels 50 days to come to the peace table or miss their last chance to discuss demands for ending a long-running insurgency.

The government has also warned that if the rebels fail to show, the government will go ahead with parliamentary elections without addressing their demands.

But rebel leader Prachanda said in a statement the only way out was peace talks in the presence of international medi-

ators and an independent election for a special assembly that would draft a new constitution.

The rebels have been fighting since February 1996 to replace Nepal's monarchy with a communist state. The insurgency has claimed more than 10,000 lives.

The government has repeatedly refused third party involvement in the peace talks, saying it is not an international conflict and should be resolved internally.

Prachanda, whose real name is Pushpa Kamal Dahal, said the deadline set by the government was a threat and reduced chances of a peaceful resolution.

### Singapore deploys landing ship to Iraq

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—Singapore dispatched a troop landing ship with a crew of 180 to Iraq on Saturday in the city-state's latest military contribution to coalition forces there.

The RSS Resolution will stay in the Persian Gulf for three months, the city-state's defense ministry said.

The crew's mission is to protect the waters around key oil terminals, provide logistics support for coalition vessels and helicopters, and conduct patrols and boarding operations, the statement said.

Singapore earlier deployed a troop landing ship, a C-130 transport plane and a KC-135 tanker aircraft to the Persian Gulf to aid Iraq's reconstruction efforts. It also sent 32 police officers to Baghdad for two months in July to help train Iraqi police.

The wealthy Southeast Asian island has been a staunch supporter of the U.S.-



## World

## Iraqi gov't rejects postponing election

By **ROBERT H. REID**  
AP WRITER

**BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)**—The Iraqi government Saturday demands to delay the Jan. 30 election, and a spokesman for the majority Shiite community called the date “nonnegotiable.” Insurgents stepped up attacks, blasting U.S. patrols in Baghdad and killing a U.S. soldier north of the capital.

Clashes also occurred north of Baghdad, where U.S. and Iraqi forces fought a three-hour gun battle with insurgents who overran a town hall and two police stations, local officials said.

Talk of delaying the election gained momentum after influential Sunni Muslim politicians urged the government to postpone the voting for six months to give authorities time to secure polling stations and to persuade Sunni clerics to abandon their call for an electoral boycott.

But the spokesman for interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite, said the government was sticking by the Jan. 30 date after receiving assurances from the Iraqi Electoral Commission that an election could take place even in Sunni areas wracked by the insurgency.

“The Iraqi government is determined ... to hold elections on time,” spokesman Thair al-Naqeeb said. “The Iraqi government, led by the prime minister,

is calling on all spectra of the Iraqi people to participate in the elections and to contribute in the elections to build a strong democratic country.”

That position was strongly endorsed Saturday by politicians and clerics from the Shiite community, which comprises about 60 percent of Iraq’s nearly 26 million people and which has been long clamoring for an election.

In the Shiite holy city of Najaf, Mohammed Hussein al-Hakim, son of Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Said al-Hakim, said the Shiite leadership would not accept a delay and called this position “nonnegotiable.”

He said elections were “the most legitimate way on the international level to express the will of the people,” and “all parties have agreed on this date and we cannot take back this position for any reason.”

In Baghdad, a major Shiite party, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Republic in Iraq, or SCIRI, said 42 parties and individuals from the Shiite and Turkomen communities agreed on a statement affirming support for the Jan. 30 date.

SCIRI official Redha Jawad Taqi said the 42 included the other leading Shiite party, the Islamic Dawa, and the Iraqi National Congress of Ahmad Chalabi, a secular Shiite once strongly supported by the Pentagon and Washington conservatives.



U.S. Army 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment soldiers lead Iraqi men suspected of insurgent involvement from the scene of a joint raid by Iraqi National Guard and U.S. forces near a mosque in central Mosul, Iraq, Saturday, Nov. 27, 2004.

“The Shiite political council will support the elections,” Chalabi said. “We will fight for the elections and will work to ensure that they are held peacefully on the specified date.”

Iraq’s two major Kurdish political parties said they were ready to take part in national elections on Jan. 30 as planned, but would not object if “other political powers” wanted to postpone the vote.

The Web site of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan said Saturday that the party issued a joint statement with the Kurdistan

Democratic Party expressing their “readiness to participate at the scheduled time.”

Insurgent violence still grips the Sunni areas despite the U.S.-led assault this month on the main insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad. The attack was launched to try to curb the insurgency so elections could be held nationwide.

An American soldier from the 1st Infantry Division was killed Saturday when a roadside bomb exploded near a U.S. patrol about 40 miles north of Bagh-

dad, the military said.

Two U.S. military vehicles, including an armored shuttle bus, were damaged by a bomb Saturday on the road to Baghdad International Airport, which the State Department considers one of the most dangerous routes in the country. An al-Qaida-affiliated group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Three civilians died and a dozen were injured in other bomb attacks against U.S. convoys in the Baghdad area, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

About 100 insurgents overran

the city hall and two police stations in Khalis, 40 miles north of the capital, but were driven off by American and Iraqi forces after a three-hour gun battle, municipal official Saad Ahmed Abbas said. Al-Jazeera television said three Iraqi security guards were killed.

South of the capital, U.S. Marines, British and Iraqi security forces continued operations against suspected insurgent strongholds near the towns of Latifiyah and Mahmoudiya.

A U.S. military spokesman said 18 suspected insurgents were taken into custody Saturday, bringing to nearly 130 the number of people arrested since the operation began Tuesday. One U.S. Marine was killed two days ago in the operation, the military said Saturday.

Officials also report a massive intimidation campaign by insurgents threatening to kill candidates and others participating in the January ballot. Sunni clerics have urged a boycott to protest the Fallujah attack.

Although Sunni Arabs comprise only about 20 percent of the population, a widespread boycott by the influential community would cost the new government much-needed legitimacy in the eyes of millions of Iraqis, some of whom question whether a valid election can be held with 160,000 U.S. and other foreign troops on Iraqi soil.

## Official: FARC sought Bush assassination

By **ANDREW SELSKY**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)**—Colombia’s main rebel group asked followers to mount an assassination attempt against President Bush during his visit to Colombia last week, Defense Minister Jorge Uribe said. There was no evidence Saturday that rebels even tried to organize such an attack.

Uribe told reporters late Friday that informants said the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the FARC, told followers to attack Bush during his four-hour visit in the seaside city of Cartagena last Monday, where he met with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe.

The defense minister, who is no relation to the president, said security forces were on full alert during the visit. About 15,000 Colombian troops and police, along with U.S. troops and Secret

Service agents provided security. There was no indication Bush’s life was ever in danger.

Uribe did not say where the informants had heard about the purported order to attack Bush.

The Secret Service did not comment on security details, as is its policy.

“We have full confidence in the fine work of the Secret Service and their work with security officials on the ground when the President travels,” White House spokesman Jim Morrell said Saturday.

The FARC has declared U.S. troops in Colombia military targets. The troops are training local forces and providing logistics and planning assistance for military operations against the rebels.

However, the rebels never publicly declared Bush a target during his first-ever visit as president to Colombia. Bush visited Colombia after attending a summit in Chile.

## Palestinian security unit to be disbanded

**GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)**—The Palestinian Authority said Saturday it will disband a small security unit tainted by accusations of abuse, an initial step toward reforming its bloated network of overlapping and competing security forces.

Palestinian reformers, as well as Israeli and U.S. officials, have long demanded a major overhaul of the Palestinian security services but faced stiff resistance from Yasser Arafat, who used the bloated security network to maintain his hold on power.

The stalled U.S.-backed “road map” peace plan also called for a restructuring of the forces but coupled that with a call for a crackdown on militant groups, a demand the Palestinians have opposed, saying it could spark a civil war.

Since Arafat’s death Nov. 11, his successors have taken steps to restore confidence in a Palestinian leadership long accused of corruption, calling for elections to choose a new leader and promising to be more open and accountable.

As part of that effort, Palestinian Preventive Security chief



Palestinian Preventive Security chief Brig. Gen. Rashid Abu Shbak answers questions from reporters during a news conference at his office in Gaza City, Saturday, Nov. 27, 2004.

Brig. Gen. Rashid Abu Shbak said Saturday he would abol-

ish the Gaza Security and Protection unit—nicknamed the

“death squad” by Palestinians—in the wake of accusations that some members abused their powers and used intimidation to rule the streets of Gaza.

“We are facing a new phase and we must say farewell to chaos and to all those who cause it in the Palestinian street,” Shbak said in Gaza City. “We must clear the air of past mistakes of the previous era.”

The 70-person unit was formed more than a year ago to crack down on militant groups, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and to track and arrest high-profile criminals in Gaza.

Instead, some members of the unit were accused of turning into criminals themselves, confiscating land, smuggling weapons and intimidating the general public with threats of violence.

The unit’s members will be dispersed to other units in the security system, Shbak said.

Disbanding the unit was a relatively simple act. Merging and reforming the disparate security forces, whose rivalries have often erupted into violence, would be far more risky, pitting the nascent Palestinian leadership against angry security chiefs.





Ukrainian demonstrators gather on Kiev's main square to protest alleged fraud in the presidential election Saturday, Nov. 27, 2004. Western-leaning Viktor Yushchenko and his Russian-backed rival, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich were expected to hold talks Saturday to end the political crisis over who won a runoff election a week ago. (

## Ukraine parliament calls election invalid

By ANNA MELNICHUK  
AP WRITER

**KIEV, Ukraine (AP)**—Ukraine's parliament has declared the country's disputed presidential election invalid, a legally ineffectual but symbolically potent move boosting opposition hopes for a revote.

Viktor Yushchenko, the opposition candidate who claims he was cheated out of victory in the election last Sunday, is demanding a new vote, and hundreds of thousands of demonstrators have jammed downtown Kiev for nearly a week to support him.

Parliament on Saturday also passed a vote of no-confidence in the Central Election Commission, which declared the Russian-backed Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich winner of the Nov. 21 presidential runoff.

Representatives of both candidates met Saturday under a program worked out a day earlier with European envoys. A Yushchenko representative, Ivan Plyushch, was quoted by the Interfax news agency after the meeting as saying, "It seems to me that the sides have the constructive wish to reach compromise."

The parliament action—approved by 255 of the 429 legislators present—was not legally binding, but it was a clear

demonstration of rising dissatisfaction and an indication that Yanukovich, if he becomes president, would face a hostile legislature.

Lawmakers also called for changes in election legislation to be considered next week. Those proposed changes could include a call for parliament to be granted the power to dismiss the elections commission.

Yushchenko said he was seeking a revote on Dec. 12 under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. But whether the systematic elections violations that international observers complained of could be addressed in such a short period was in doubt.

Elections commission head Serhiy Kivalov said Saturday he was not opposed to new voting, but said that "before such an emotional decision is taken, a commission must be created to analyze the work of the CEC," according to the Unian news agency.

That position would be unlikely to please the Yushchenko camp, which wants to keep the protests' momentum going.

International support for a new vote was high.

Dutch Foreign Minister Ben Bot, speaking for the European Union, said

new elections were the "ideal outcome." Asked if new elections were the only solution, Bot answered: "Yes."

Unian, citing Russia's RIA-Novosti, quoted Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko as saying Friday that Moscow regarded a potential revote favorably—an apparently significant retreat from its earlier insistence that the Nov. 21 elections were fair and valid.

Ukraine's parliament has no legal capacity to directly affect the election results. But speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn said, "The most realistic political decision, taking into account the mutual claims of massive violations, is to pronounce the elections invalid."

"The Central Election Commission discredited itself in the first round, undermining public trust in the institution as it is," Lytvyn said.

Outside parliament, more than 7,000 opposition protesters encircled the building, chanting "Yushchenko!" Police looked on from the building's entrances.

Prospects for a resolution of the crisis by a working group made up of four people from each campaign were unclear.

Yanukovich aide Stepan Havrysh, who was to participate on behalf of the prime minister, said he thought it might be possible to reach an agreement within two days.

## Europe, Iran work to save nuclear deal

**VIENNA, Austria (AP)**—Top European and Iranian officials sought Saturday to save a deal committing Tehran to freezing uranium enrichment programs, which can make nuclear weapons. But Iran's insistence on exempting key equipment hurt hopes of agreement before a key U.N. meeting reconvenes next week.

The squabble over Iran's interpretation of its deal with the European Union to freeze all activities linked to uranium enrichment stalled an International Atomic Energy Agency board meeting, which was adjourned Friday until Monday.

That was meant to give the Iranian government time to approve a total freeze of the program—which can produce both low-grade nuclear fuel and weapons-grade material for the core of

nuclear warheads—and for delegates to decide on further steps in policing Tehran's nuclear activities.

But in Tehran, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told reporters Saturday that Iran still held the view that it had a right to exempt about 20 centrifuges from the agreement, despite contrary views from the European Union.

Iran says it wants to run the centrifuges purely for research, something Kharrazi insisted was not banned by a Nov. 7 agreement worked out with Germany, France and Britain on behalf of the European Union.

"The centrifuges will work under International Atomic Energy Agency supervision and will be for research purposes only," he told reporters.

The meeting was adjourned to give

time for a formal Iranian response by letter to the IAEA on whether the Tehran government accepts a full suspension that includes the 20 centrifuges.

EU delegates to the Vienna meeting said discussions continued Saturday by phone between British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and Hassan Rowhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and his country's top point man on nuclear matters.

But they said the Europeans would not budge on insisting on a full freeze that included the centrifuges.

As the board meeting awaited a formal Iranian response, France, Germany and Britain toned down the language of proposed resolution they drafted, in attempts to entice Tehran to sign on to full suspension.

## North Darfur gov lifts aid restrictions

MOHAMED OSMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)**—The governor of the troubled North Darfur state said Saturday his government has lifted restrictions on humanitarian aid groups in a sign of goodwill, but an aid official said the move was not enough to allow his group to resume work.

Barry Came, a World Food Program officer in Khartoum, said that as of Saturday night the U.N. security restrictions on the state still applied, adding that the easing of state government restrictions - although a welcome attempt to "lessen tension" - wasn't enough to allow resuming assistance.

"As of a few hours ago, there was no change in our operations," Came said.

Fighting between the government and rebels erupted last week and caused aid groups to suspend operations. The World Food Program said Thursday it was temporarily suspending its operations in most of the troubled state, cutting off some 300,000 internally displaced people from WFP food.

The governor, Osman Youssef Kebir, told The Associated Press that local government restrictions on aid groups' movements on roads had been lifted. He said he would hold a conference Sunday in the capital, El Fasher, to make the new policy official. He has invited representatives of the rebel groups, the African Union, and the European Union, which has a visiting delegation in El Fasher.

"We have gone beyond the escala-

tion phase, and we as a government are responsible to protect citizens and push the peace process forward," said Kebir, whose government accuses rebels of killing at least 30 people in the latest round of fighting. "So we see that we should call on the rebels to reject confrontations and escalation."

With this move, the government is reaffirming its commitment to all international agreements, he said in a telephone interview from El Fasher.

"We open all the roads and doors to humanitarian groups and remove all restrictions on their movement and we call upon them to resume their operations," he said.

Despite a Nov. 9 cease-fire, fighting erupted last week between government-backed militias, known as Janjaweed, and Sudan Liberation Army rebels. On Monday, the African Union mission rescued 45 humanitarian aid workers who fled the fighting.

The United Nations and Britain blamed the rebels for breaching cease-fire agreements. But the main rebel group, the Sudan Liberation Army, rejected responsibility for the renewed fighting in north Darfur, saying it was responding to attacks by the state air force and pro-government militia.

The 21-month conflict has driven an estimated minimum of 1.8 million people from their homes. International agencies estimate that disease, malnutrition and clashes among the displaced have killed more than 70,000 people since March. Many more have died in the fighting, but no firm estimate of the direct war toll exists.

## Vatican returns relics to Istanbul

**VATICAN CITY (AP)**—Pope John Paul II, in a gesture of friendship with the Orthodox Church, on Saturday handed over the bones of two early Christian saints that were brought to Rome from ancient Constantinople centuries ago.

The Vatican said the return of the saints' relics was part of the pope's efforts to promote Christian unity and dismissed any suggestion that John Paul was "asking pardon" for their removal by Crusaders from the seat of the Orthodox Church.

The pope sat beside Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, in St. Peter's Basilica as the bones of the saints, resting on yellow velvet in crystal and alabaster reliquaries, were brought to the altar.

While a choir sang in Greek and Latin, the two religious leaders blessed the relics, before the reliquaries were carried away on biers by Vatican ushers in dark suits acting as pallbearers.

The Vatican is retaining a small part of the relics.

During a visit to the Vatican in June, the Orthodox leader had sought the return of the relics of Patriarchs John Chrysostom and Gregory Nazianzen, who were archbishops long before the split between the eastern and western churches nearly 1,000 years ago.

In remarks read for him by an aide, the frail pontiff called it a "bless-

ed occasion to purify our wounded memories" and to "strengthen our path of reconciliation."

"I will never tire" in efforts to achieve it, the pope said.

Bartholomew, speaking next, said the handover repaired "an anomaly" and "ecclesiastical injustice" and that it was a sign that there are no "insurmountable problems in the Church of Christ."

The Orthodox leader, speaking in Italian, said the gesture also served as an example to those holding religious treasures sought by others.

In Istanbul later Saturday, bells rang out in celebration as the remains were carried in a candle light procession into the Cathedral of St. George.

"For eight hundred years, these relics have been in exile," Bartholomew said at service. "This gesture differentiates (Catholic leaders) from the deed of their predecessors eight centuries ago."

Clear glass cases containing the bones were symbolically placed in front of patriarch's throne. Bartholomew bowed and crossed himself as hymns of praise were chanted.

Bartholomew and John Paul have both emphasized reconciliation between their churches, which split in 1054 over the growing power of the papacy.

The Orthodox say the relics were removed from Constantinople when Crusaders sacked the city in 1204.



# Health & Fitness

## Researchers making headway against nicotine addiction

By MICHAEL STROH  
THE BALTIMORE SUN

**I**s tobacco about to meet its match?

New insights into how nicotine behaves in the body are paving the way for better drugs to help smokers beat their addiction, researchers reported last week at the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists' annual meeting in Baltimore.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 70 percent of the nation's 46 million smokers say they want to quit. But fewer than 5 percent of those who go cold turkey manage to stay nicotine-free. Most last less than a week.

Smokers who turn to cessation aids, including behavioral therapy and drugs such as Zyban or nicotine gums and patches, fare better—but not by much. Fewer than 25 percent of smokers who use cessation aids are tobacco-free after one year. One result: 440,000 Americans die from smoking-related causes annually.

"There's certainly a need for novel medications," says Tony George, a

Yale University psychiatrist who studies and treats nicotine addicts.

One of the more promising experimental drugs being tested in humans is Varenicline. Developed by Pfizer, the drug is the first anti-smoking therapy specifically designed to target the brain's nicotine receptors.

Each time a smoker takes a drag, nicotine travels through the lungs and into the bloodstream. Seconds later, it's in the brain. There it latches onto a complex receptor known as the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor, or nACh, which triggers the release of the chemical dopamine.

Dopamine is the body's ubiquitous feel-good drug. "Anything you find

pleasurable releases dopamine—rock 'n' roll, food, sex, what have you," says Linda Dwoskin, a nicotine researcher at the University of Kentucky.

So each puff on a cigarette triggers a blissful dopamine jolt. But as dopamine levels drop off, it leads to the potent cravings that force most smokers to pull out their packs. "This happens with every hit of the cigarette you take," says Jotham Coe, a Pfizer chemist who helped develop Varenicline.

But the question remained: What to do with this molecular machinery?

Pfizer researchers concluded that bottling up the nACh receptors or activating them, as the nicotine patch does, wouldn't work. Both could actu-

ally motivate smokers to suck up even more nicotine.

Then Pfizer researchers heard about an anti-smoking compound studied by Soviet scientists in the 1970s. The substance, called cytisine, partially blocked nicotine receptors.

Partial blocking blunts a smoker's cravings by tricking the brain into thinking nicotine has arrived. But it doesn't provide enough pleasure to fuel further addiction.

But cytisine turned out to have other problems, so Pfizer researchers set out to create a synthetic drug that mimicked its effect. By 1997, they had Varenicline. "If you think of nicotine as a 100-watt bulb in the nicotine socket, this is something of a 40-watt bulb," Coe says.

Earlier this month, more evidence emerged that the Pfizer scientists were on the right track. A team at the California Institute of Technology reported in the journal *Science* that the nicotine receptor Pfizer scientists targeted is where nicotine exerts the most influence on the brain.

A small clinical study of Varenicline that wrapped up last year also showed promise: Half of smokers taking the pill quit after seven weeks. Nineteen percent taking placebo managed the same feat. A more extensive study is under way.

But nicotine receptors aren't the only place nicotine exerts influence in the brain, so scientists are also exploring other targets. Among them are the cannabinoid receptors.

French pharmaceutical firm Sanofi-Aventis is working on a drug called rimonabant that targets these receptors and shows promise in smokers. The

drug, known commercially as Acomplia, made headlines last week because a new study also showed it helped obese people shed weight.

Some scientists are trying to take out nicotine molecules before they ever reach the brain.

In its Rockville, Md., research lab, Nabi Biopharmaceuticals, for example, is developing nicotine vaccines designed to enlist the aid of the body's immune system.

Nicotine molecules normally pass unnoticed through the body. So Nabi has created a vaccine, dubbed NicVax, containing nicotine molecules tagged with detoxified bacterial proteins. These marked molecules cause the immune system to construct antibodies against nicotine.

If a vaccinated person tries to smoke, the nicotine is mopped up by antibodies and never makes it to receptors in the brain. Without the dopamine kick, "it's going to be like smoking a cigarette full of air," George says.

In September, Nabi disclosed the results of a small study that showed NicVax worked about as well as the most effective therapies on the market. In the study, 33 percent of smokers who got the vaccine managed to quit for 30 days or more, compared with 9 percent of the placebo group. Participants received four injections over the six-month trial.

The company is conducting a test in Europe to determine if increasing the dose makes the vaccine even more effective, said spokesman Mark Soufleris. It hopes to have the vaccine on the market by 2008.

## Study: Cigarettes cost society \$40 a pack

**DURHAM, N.C. (AP)**—Cigarettes may cost smokers more than they believe. A study by a team of health economists finds the combined price paid by their families and society is about \$40 per pack of cigarettes.

The figure is based on lifetime costs for a 24-year-old smoker over 60 years for cigarettes, taxes, life and property insurance, medical care and lost earnings because of smoking-related disabilities, researchers said.

"It will be necessary for persons aged 24 and younger to face the fact that the decision to smoke is a very costly one—one of the most costly decisions they make," the study's authors concluded.

Smokers pay about \$33 of the cost, their families absorb \$5.44 and others pay \$1.44, according to health economists from Duke University and a professor from the University of South Florida. The study drew on data including Social Security earnings histories dating to 1951.

Incidental costs such as higher cleaning bills and lower resale values for smokers' cars were not included.

Most smoking studies rely on a snapshot of annual costs, said co-author Frank Sloan, an economics professor and the director of the Center for Health, Policy, Law and Management at Duke's Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy.

Despite the finding that smoking is a costly habit for individuals, society carries



less of a burden than generally believed, the study's authors determined.

"The reason the number is low is that for private pensions, Social Security, and Medicare—the biggest factors in calculating costs to society—smoking actually saves money," Sloan said. "Smokers die at a younger age and don't draw on the funds they've paid into those systems."

Given the high costs, it is "remarkable," the authors conclude, that money from the 1998 settlement involving 46 state attorneys general and major tobacco manufacturers largely are not being spent on smoking-cessation or related programs.

But even after taking into account the cost savings from early deaths, smoking still costs society \$2.20 a pack for such things as sick leave, life insurance outlays and medical care not paid by smokers. The researchers concluded that after subtracting the 76 cents a pack smokers pay in state and federal taxes, society's net cost is \$1.44 a pack.

Many states use the money to cover budget deficits or, as in North Carolina, on economic development in tobacco communities.

The study's other co-authors are Jan Ostermann, Christopher Conover and Donald H. Taylor Jr. of Duke, along with Gabriel Picone of the University of South Florida. Their research was supported in part by a grant from the National Institute on Aging.



## Life &amp; Style

## 'Tis the season for bland movies



On consecutive days, I watched *Alexander*, then *Christmas with the Kranks*. *Alexander* is prolonged (three

hours) and boring (reviewed on 11-26), but somehow, 90 minutes of *Christmas with the Kranks* feels considerably longer. Starring Tim Allen (*The Santa Clause*) and Jamie Lee Curtis (*Freaky Friday*), *Christmas with the Kranks* manages to eek out less laughs than even a bad TV sitcom. Adding insult to injury, it completely mangles the Christmas spirit, embracing everything that's soured so many people on Santa.

With their daughter leaving for the Peace Corps, Luther (Allen) and Nora (Curtis) Krank decide to "skip Christmas" (which they somehow spend \$6K on, annually) and instead spend their time and money in the Caribbean. Okay. What's wrong with that?

## Hawn, Russell land roles in Palisades

LOS ANGELES—Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell have purchased a home in the Pacific Palisades section of Los Angeles for close to its asking price of \$4.5 million, according to public records.

The actors bought a gated, traditional-style estate with five bedrooms and 5 1/2 bathrooms in about 6,000 square feet. The home, built in the '50s, has a formal living room with a fireplace, a kitchen with a breakfast area, a bonus room with a fireplace, a loft bedroom that could be used as a playroom or office, and a master bedroom suite with a sitting area. The yard has a rose garden, pool and spa.

The couple have had another home in the area as well as one in nearby Malibu, which they have been refurbishing.

The actress, 59, co-starred with Susan Sarandon in "The Banger Sisters" (2002). Hawn was recently in India scouting locations for her upcoming comedy "Ashes to Ashes," about a woman who loses her husband's ashes on her way to bury them in Nepal. Hawn will star in the film and will write and direct it.

Russell, 53, played a psychiatrist trying to help Tom Cruise in director Cameron Crowe's "Vanilla Sky" (2001). He will co-star opposite Kelly Preston as super-powered parents in the upcoming Walt Disney comedy "Sky High."

Hawn and Russell have been together since 1982, when they met during filming of the movie "Swing Shift."

By JOE WEINDL

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Comments? E-mail Weindl at [joewatchesmovies@yahoo.com](mailto:joewatchesmovies@yahoo.com).



In the real world, friends and family would be happy for them, but in the fake, nightmare world of *Christmas with the Kranks*, a holiday vacation is simply unacceptable. Led by a reincarnation of den Fuhrer (played by Dan Akroyd), the Kranks' neighbors harass and humiliate them until they finally give in to the mob mentality. Independence is out. Conformity and commercialism are in. Sieg Heil!

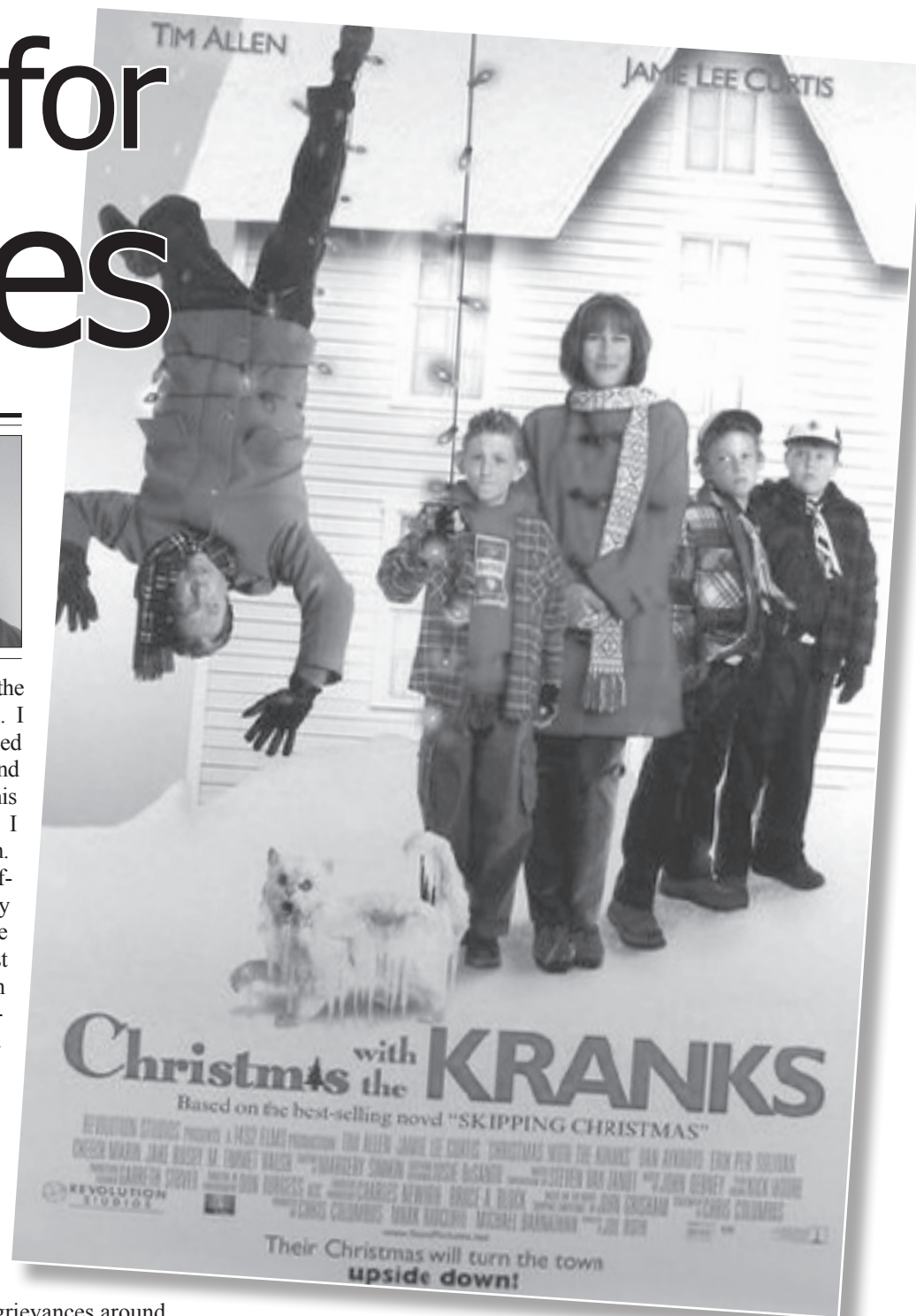
With better direction, *Christmas with the Kranks* might've been better. Allen and Curtis have both shown that they can do comedy. Director Joe Roth's best effort to date, however, is *Revenge of the Nerds 2: Nerds in Paradise*. Not exactly a classic. The directing in *Christmas with the Kranks* is sloppy, at best; everything feels forced and wholly insincere. Throughout the entire movie, I think I laughed once, but I can't remember at what, so I guess it wasn't that funny. *Christmas with the Kranks* can't decide if it wants to be satire or slapstick. Either way, it's bad.

Allen's character, for some reason, is depicted as the Scrooge, so of course he has to learn his lesson by film's end. Oddly, Allen's Scrooge is the only

voice of reason in the entire story, though. I think we're supposed to feel all warm and gushy when he has his Tiny Tim moment. I almost lost my lunch.

Instead of reaffirming the cozy and compassionate feelings that most of us associate with Christmas, this movie actually makes a pretty good case for ditching the whole thing. Maybe we should all join Cosmo Kramer and Frank Costanza, and celebrate Festivus, the holiday for the rest of us. We can air our grievances around the Festivus pole, and then perform feats of strength.

If you're in the mood for a movie with some Christmas cheer, *The Polar Express* gets a big thumbs-up from me. Or, of course, you could dust off that



old copy of *A Christmas Carol* or *It's a Wonderful Life*. If comedy is what you're looking for, Chevy Chase's *Christmas Vacation* is always good for a few yuks, as is Will Farrell's *Elf*. *Christmas with*

*the Kranks*, however, is best avoided, at all costs, and will go down in history as one of the worst movies of 2004, and one of the most despicable Christmas movies of all time.

## Celebs shun once-famed Hollywood Parade

By GILLIAN FLACCUS  
AP WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The biggest stars at the Hollywood Christmas Parade this year will be the marble ones under the feet of spectators.

The annual parade, which winds past the Hollywood Walk of Fame, was once a tradition as rich and famous as the celebrities who graced its floats: Jimmy Stewart, Bob Hope, Mary Pickford and Gregory Peck, to name a few.

But the event's cachet has declined so much in recent years that the Hollywood personality generating the most excitement for the 73rd parade on Sunday is a cartoon character—SpongeBob SquarePants.

The other big names? Female boxer Laila Ali, the winners of the reality show "The Amazing Race 5" and out-of-tune "American Idol" loser William Hung.

"The parade used to be huge—a million people would come and there were huge stars," said Michael Levine, author and publicist to the stars. "But today there's no sense of obligation to anyone except yourself and the imme-

diolate. It's a shame. The celebrities are missing a great opportunity."

The event has been in such dire straits recently that the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce called celebrity impresario and Walk of Fame boss Johnny Grant out of retirement last year to try to resuscitate it.

But even Grant—who rescued the parade in 1978 and kept it going for 20 years—has had trouble restoring its faded luster. The 81-year-old honorary Hollywood mayor said he called "just about every star in town" for this year's event, but most were already booked.

"I'm not sure we have the caliber stars today that we had back in the era of the golden days of Hollywood. It has changed drastically," Grant said. "Today the young kids are making a lot of money and they hop the charter jet to Miami or the ski slopes or wherever."

Grant hopes that with more publicity, the parade will return to its glory days, when he could call the biggest Hollywood names directly and ask them to appear. In those days, he said, celebrities would fight to be in the parade because it was a sign they had arrived.

"Arnold Schwarzenegger told me once that he spent his first night in Hollywood sitting on the curb watching the Hollywood Christmas Parade and wondering if he would ever get in it," Grant said. The actor-turned-governor has appeared in the parade, but last year he couldn't commit to be grand marshal.

The history of the parade is as storied as Hollywood itself.

The first, called the Santa Claus Lane Parade, was staged in 1928 by merchants who wanted to drum up holiday business on Hollywood Boulevard. It consisted of a sleigh on wheels pulled by two live reindeer, with starlet Jeanette Loff on board.

In 1946, Gene Autry heard the children along the parade route shouting for Santa Claus and was inspired to write the holiday classic "Here Comes Santa Claus." The parade has been held every year except for 1930 and three years during World War II.

In 1978, the event started to lose its appeal and then-TV personality Grant swooped in with financial backing from Autry to revive it. He renamed it the Hollywood Christmas Parade to

draw attention to its star quality and to generate national interest.

But the event has faltered in the five years since Grant stepped down as executive producer, losing live television coverage, corporate sponsors and much of its star power. In 2002, NBC decided to ignore the parade in favor of a one-hour "variety show" taped a week earlier.

Grant hopes his involvement this year will show Hollywood's A-list that they have a vested interest in Tinseltown's past.

"I don't think we've done a very good job telling them how important a tradition this is," he said. "They are using the most famous brand name in the world to enhance their career at no cost."

Grant's former employer, KTLA-TV, agreed to broadcast the parade live locally and on its sister stations in New York and Chicago. Former Laker great Magic Johnson is the grand marshal and "Desperate Housewives" narrator Brenda Strong is on board.

Oh, and never underestimate the pull of that larger-than-life invertebrate, SpongeBob.



# Agent: Pink Floyd's chorus owed royalties

**LONDON (AP)**—Members of the children's chorus who sang on Pink Floyd's anti-authoritarian 1979 hit, "Another Brick in the Wall," are owed thousands of dollars in payment, a royalties agent said.

Peter Rowan said he was representing one of the group, Peter Thorpe, in a bid for unpaid royalties. Rowan said he hoped other members of the group would join the claim for royalties from a fund set up in 1997 to compensate session musicians.

Two dozen students from Islington Green School in north London sang on the chart-topping track from the album "The Wall," which was recorded at a nearby studio in 1979.

The song attracted controversy for the chorus sung by the children: "We don't need no education/ We don't need no thought control/ No dark sarcasm in the classroom/ Teachers, leave them kids alone."

"It was seen as being quite improper," said the school's present head teacher, Trevor Averre-Beeson.

"The Wall" has sold more than 23 million copies and is the third best-selling album of all time, according to the Recording Industry Association of America.

The school received a platinum disc and a payment in return for the children's efforts, but the pupils weren't paid.

"It's a legal right and the money is building up," Rowan said Friday.

## Youngest candidate fired on 'Apprentice'

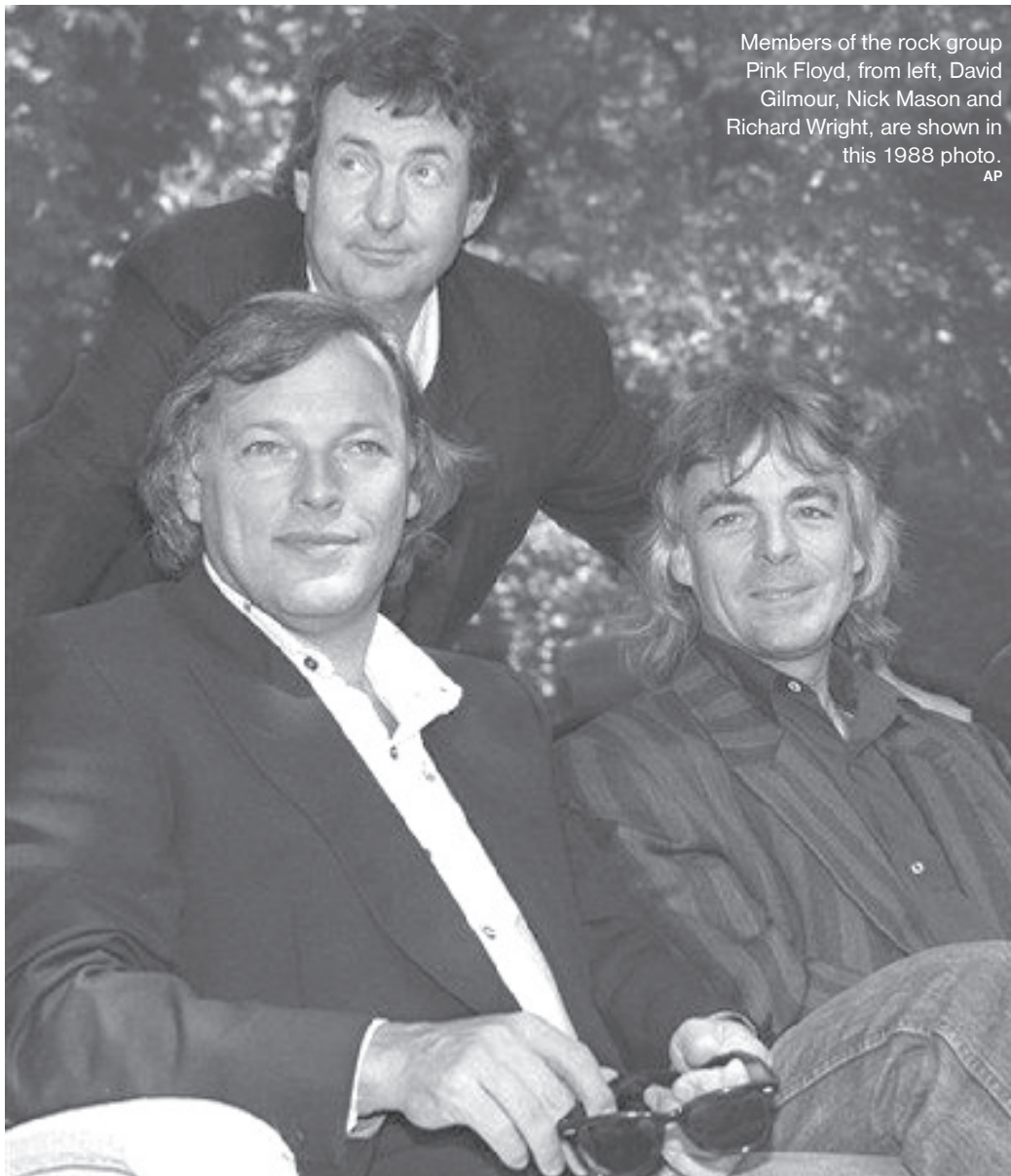
**NEW YORK (AP)**—The youngest candidate on NBC's "The Apprentice" heard the words "you're fired" after fizzling out on a task centering on the creation of a limited-edition soda bottle.

Mosaic project manager Andy Litinsky, 23, and team members Jennifer Massey, 30, and Sandy Ferreira, 28, fell flat when presenting their geography-themed marketing campaign for Pepsi Edge in front of an auditorium filled with marketing professionals on Thursday's episode.

"On the show, one of the Pepsi people said geography wasn't cool," Litinsky told The Associated Press Friday. "I think geography is cool. It's fun. Maps are cool. State capitals are cool. I can't apologize for liking geography."

In the boardroom, Massey and Ferreira had a verbal catfight over who was the most creative during the task while Litinsky, sitting between the women, kept his lips sealed. The confrontation lasted seconds on the show. In reality, the spat, which Trump ended by banging on the conference table, was much longer.

"The girls were fighting for like half an hour," said Litinsky. "I thought (Trump) was going to break up the fight. But then



Members of the rock group Pink Floyd, from left, David Gilmour, Nick Mason and Richard Wright, are shown in this 1988 photo. AP

## Court rules French film not French enough

**PARIS (AP)**—Never mind that Jean-Pierre Jeunet's new film is a French story filmed in the French language featuring one of France's biggest actresses. A Paris court has ruled that "Un Long Dimanche de Fiancailles" (A Very Long Engagement), which opened Friday in the United States, is too American to compete in French film festivals—because of its Warner Bros. backing.

The movie, which opened at the end of October in France to much acclaim, stars Audrey Tautou, the winsome young actress who went from virtual unknown to international star with Jeunet's 2001 romance "Amelie."

The National Center for Cinematography, or CNC, made

state funds available for Jeunet's movie in October 2003. A producer's association immediately questioned the film's nationality and filed a complaint.

On Thursday, the court canceled the CNC approval, saying that 2003 Productions, a French company acting as the delegated producer for the movie, was created solely "to allow the company Warner Bros. France ... to benefit from financial help even though (the fund) is reserved for the European cinematographic industry."

Jeunet was traveling and not immediately available for comment on the decision, Warner Independent Pictures said in Los Angeles.

The CNC said it was "care-

fully studying this judgment and its consequences," but did not say whether it would appeal.

In an ironic twist, Jeunet's movie cannot even become a candidate for the prestigious Cannes Film Festival awards because, with its U.S. debut, it will have been screened outside its country of origin, France. Movies shown at Cannes must not have been screened outside the country where they originate ahead of the festival.

The travails are not yet over for "A Very Long Engagement," which faces legal action from Corsicans angered by what they consider to be the movie's demeaning treatment of the population from the French Mediterranean island.

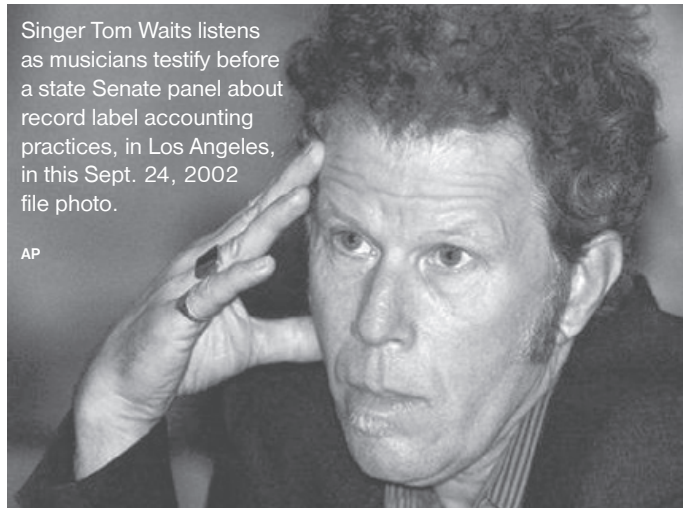
## Tom Waits performs long-awaited concert

**LONDON (AP)**—Offbeat rocker-actor Tom Waits returned to the British stage Tuesday for the first time since 1987. The 3,000-capacity Carling Hammersmith Apollo sold out in 20 minutes when tickets went on sale for the only British date on his European tour promoting his new "cubist funk" album "Real Gone."

Music stars including Thom Yorke, Beth Orton and Jamie Cullum were in the crowd to see Waits perform new material, as well as old favorites from his 30-year career. The audience seemed to relish Waits' unique gravely singing voice.

Making fun of his long absence from London and his own

Singer Tom Waits listens as musicians testify before a state Senate panel about record label accounting practices, in Los Angeles, in this Sept. 24, 2002 file photo. AP



age, the 54-year-old singer said: "It's good to see you."

"OK, all right, yeah, 17 years

... but you look good. The three ages of man: youth, middle age and 'you look good.'"

## 'Date rape' is right name for frat-house assault

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** My 16-year-old daughter went to a party at a frat house where she was given a great deal to drink. Feeling "woozy," she went outside. One of the "boys" she had been talking to went with her and suggested she go back to his room to lie down. She had known this fellow before that night and trusted him. She was drunk, and he had sex with her. It was her first time. She claims she tried to make him stop, but he wouldn't, and she couldn't make him.

Shouldn't the young man be punished in some way? I feel something should be done, and I also worry about him doing this to some other girl. Would this constitute date rape?

CONFUSED IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR CONFUSED:** You're darn right it was date rape. And the "something" you should do is call the nearest rape crisis center and get help for your daughter. You should also inform the police. I'm sure they'll be interested to know that minors are being given alcohol and taken advantage of at that fraternity house, as well as the name of the man who assaulted your daughter. You're absolutely correct that he's likely to do it again.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been dating "Howie" for a year. I love him and want to spend my life with him, but there's a problem. Women are attracted to Howie like bees to honey. I have seen this with my own eyes. Women come on to him even though he tells them he's in a serious relationship. Should I look the other way when they start up? Yes, Howie does talk to them, but he is just a friendly guy.

I don't want to lose my boyfriend over this, but it's really starting to bother me. How should I handle it?

UNCOMFORTABLE IN FLORIDA

**DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE:** If you and Howie didn't have something special, you wouldn't have lasted as a couple. Short of throwing a bag over your boyfriend's head, there is no way to make him less attractive. However, if your "friendly guy" leaves you to fend for yourself all evening, that's considered bad manners—and you would be within your rights to let him know it.

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently went through a difficult two-year divorce from "Jayson" after 10 years of marriage. My former mother-in-law, "Violet," now insists that I return the china that Jayson and I received during the marriage. I always thought a gift was just that—a gift.

Violet insists that the china be returned. She says it wasn't from "my" family. I say it WAS my family—for 10 years. You see, Abby, Jayson left me. I was trying to work on our problems, but he wanted out. Now Violet is calling me a martyr and saying I have no right to the china.

I have informed Jayson and his mother-from-hell that the china is boxed and in storage, and that I'm saving it for our son. Am I wrong?

FURIOUS IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR FURIOUS:** When your son and his future bride are ready to set up a household, they'll want to select their own china. Of this you can be sure. If the china has been in your husband's family for generations, return it. If that's not the case, offer to let your former mother-in-law BUY it back.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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# Pastimes

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# James, Ilgauskas lead Cavaliers over Wizards

**CLEVELAND (AP)**—LeBron James scored 24 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 21 and the Cleveland Cavaliers won their third straight game after an 0-3 start, beating the Washington Wizards 105-74 Saturday.

"We're just getting started," James said. "We're getting better every game."

Drew Gooden added 15 rebounds and 14 points while Jeff McInnis had 13 points and 11 assists for the Cavaliers.

James scored nine of the Cavaliers' first 11 in the fourth, taking over just as he did Wednesday when he out-scored Phoenix 17-14 in the final 12 minutes and the Cavs overcame a 19-point deficit to win.

"He's the best," Cavs coach Paul Silas said. "He's unbelievable. He wants the ball and he wants the responsibility. Everything we need, he provides. He's so special."

The reigning rookie of the year came into the game as the NBA's second leading scorer and Cleveland's undisputed leader. Entering the game, James had accounted for 40 percent of the Cavaliers' points in the fourth quarter.

Gilbert Arenas scored 25 points to lead the Wizards. Antawn Jamison had 14 and nine rebounds for Washington, which was held to 28 points under its average.

## Mavericks 94, Nets 78

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jerry Stackhouse hit all five of his third-quarter shots and scored a season-high 28 points, leading Dallas over New Jersey.

Dirk Nowitzki added 31 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and four of Dallas' 12 steals in helping the revamped Mavericks win for the sixth time in seven games.

Richard Jefferson had 28 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Nets, who lost for the third time in four home games. Point guard Zoran Planinic had a career-high 16 points and Eric Williams added 15.

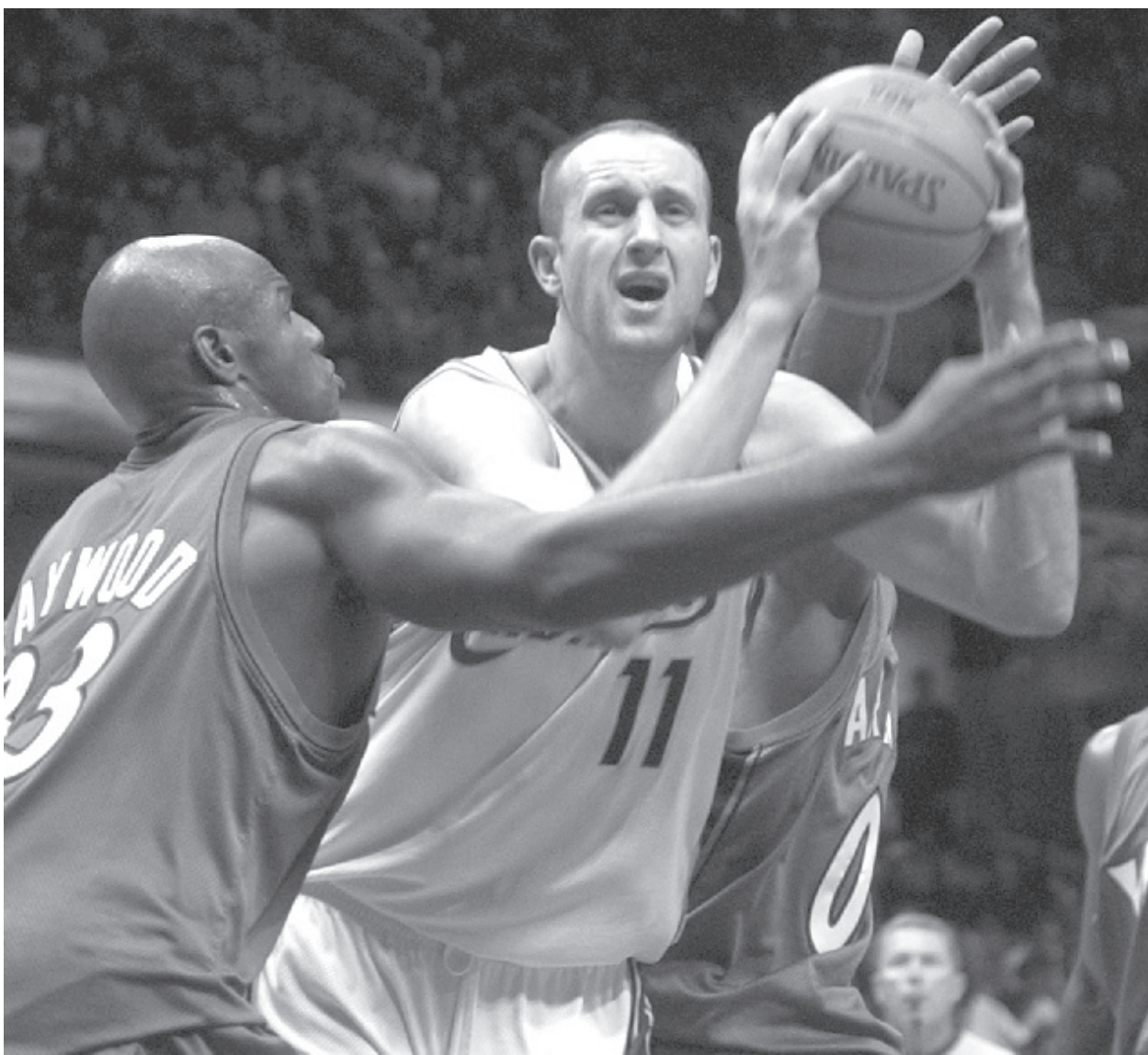
Acquired from Washington in the offseason to give Dallas a threat off the bench, Stackhouse had struggled with his shot. He came into the game shooting 36.4 percent, including a 4-of-14 effort in a loss at Orlando this week.

## Warriors 103, Bobcats 87

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Jason Richardson scored 27 points and Troy Murphy added 22 to lead Golden State over expansion Charlotte.

It was the first win for coach Mike Montgomery, who opened his NBA career with six consecutive losses and put Golden State in danger of besting the franchise futility mark set at the start of the 1997-98 season by opening 0-9.

The Warriors built a 22-point, first-half lead against the undermanned Bobcats. Down to 10 players already



Cleveland Cavaliers' Zydrunas Ilgauskas, from Lithuania, (11) tries to get past Washington Wizards' Brendan Haywood (33) in the third quarter, Saturday, Nov. 13, 2004, in Cleveland.

because of injury, Emeka Okafor left with a sprained ankle.

Gerald Wallace led Charlotte with 22 points.

## Spurs 103, Hawks 88

In Atlanta, Tim Duncan scored 26 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, and Bruce Bowen scored a career-high 22 points to help San Antonio defeat Atlanta.

Antoine Walker led the Hawks with 23 points, including four 3-pointers in the final quarter. Atlanta's only other scorer in double figures was Al Harrington with 10 points.

Spurs center Rasho Nesterovic had a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

The Hawks, who set a team record with only 25 second-half points Tuesday night against Cleveland, were back in a scoring rut early against the Spurs. Atlanta trailed 44-35 at half-time after shooting 28 percent in over the first two quarters.

## Pacers 103, Knicks 97

In Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal had 33 points and 12 rebounds, Ron Artest marked his 25th birthday with 22 points and Stephen Jackson added 19

as Indiana beat New York.

It was Indiana's fourth game in five nights, and because of injuries the Pacers had only 10 players available and used just eight, with all five starters logging at least 38 minutes.

Artest then iced the game with two free throws before Jerome Williams scored for New York at the buzzer.

Nazr Mohammed added a season-high 20 points for the Knicks.

## Bucks 94, Hornets 91

In Milwaukee, Michael Redd scored 30 points, and Keith Van Horn and Desmond Mason added 17 each to lead Milwaukee over New Orleans.

Joe Smith added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Bucks, who have won three straight games following a season-opening loss to Orlando. New Orleans, led by Darrell Armstrong's 21 points, fell to 0-6.

Redd had 12 points in the third quarter to help the Bucks to a 71-63 lead. He made seven straight shots, including three in the third quarter, before finally missing with 5:02 to play.

## Clippers 97, Bulls 96

In Chicago, Marko Jaric scored 17 of

his 19 points in the second half as Los Angeles rallied from a 24-point deficit to beat winless Chicago.

Corey Maggette led Los Angeles with 23 points, and Chris Wilcox added 14 points, including two thunderous dunks in the final quarter when the Clippers finished off the victory.

The Bulls blew a 49-25 second-quarter lead and fell to 0-4.

Eddy Curry led the Bulls with 20, but had only six in the second half, and shot just 8-for-20. Tyson Chandler added 17 points and had 13 rebounds.

The Clippers played their third road game in four nights after arriving at 2:30 a.m. from New York, where they'd lost to the Knicks on Friday night.

## Lakers 84, Rockets 79

In Houston, Lamar Odom had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Los Angeles held on to give coach Rudy Tomjanovich a victory over his former team. The Lakers blew a 22-point lead they held in the third quarter.

In an emotional pregame ceremony, Tomjanovich was honored for his 33 years of service to the Houston organization as a player, scout, assistant coach and head coach. He led the Rockets to

NBA championships in 1994 and 1995.

Tomjanovich had his new team way ahead early in the third quarter, despite a strong performance by Yao Ming who had 32 points and seven rebounds. Jim Jackson added 15 for the Rockets.

Kobe Bryant was only 2-for-7 in the first half but he scored the Lakers' first nine points of the third quarter. He finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

## Jazz 108, Pistons 93

In Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur scored 19 points against his former team, and Carlos Boozer had 20 points and 13 rebounds, leading Utah past Detroit.

Andrei Kirilenko scored 17 points and Gordan Giricek finished with 15 points for the Jazz, who scored more than 100 points for the fifth time in six games.

The Jazz, who won just three of their six 100-point games last season, won for the fifth time in six games.

Defending NBA champion Detroit was without Ben Wallace, who missed the game because of a death in his family, and Chauncey Billups, sidelined with a sprained ankle.

Richard Hamilton scored 19 of his 21 points in the second half for Detroit. Antonio McDyess had 18 points and 12 rebounds.

## Kings 113, Suns 111

In Phoenix, Chris Webber had a season-high 28 points and 10 rebounds, helping Sacramento beat Phoenix and shake off its worst loss of the early season.

The Kings lost by 30 points at Seattle on Wednesday night, staggering to a 1-4 start.

Peja Stojakovic matched his season high with 23 points, Mike Bibby scored 20 and Brad Miller had six of his 14 points in the final quarter.

Amare Stoudemire and Steve Nash had 29 points apiece for the Suns, who dropped their second straight after a 4-0 start.

## Trail Blazers 105, Raptors 102

In Portland, Oregon, Zach Randolph had 27 points and 16 rebounds, and Portland returned home after a winless road trip to beat Toronto.

Lamond Murray's 3-pointer at the final buzzer appeared to tie the game at 105, but further review by officials showed that the shot was too late.

The Raptors trailed by as many as 20 points in the second half, but Rafer Alston hit the second of consecutive 3-pointers with 2:04 left to give Toronto a brief 100-98 lead. Damon Stoudamire answered with a jumper, and the Blazers led the rest of the way.

Toronto's Vince Carter had his lowest point total of the season, with just four in 22 minutes.

# No. 24 Memphis tops George Mason, 75-58

**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** (AP)—Sean Banks had 20 points and 11 rebounds to help No. 24 Memphis beat George Mason 75-58 on Saturday night in the second round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

Memphis (2-0) will face St. Mary's in the national semifinals on Thursday night at Madison Square Garden

in New York. In the other semifinal, No. 6 Syracuse will play No. 12 Mississippi State.

Banks struggled from the field, hitting only five of his 20 shots, but was 10-of-12 from the free-throw line.

Rodney Carney and Darius Washington added 12 points each, and Anthony Rice finished with 11. Joey Dorsey had his second consecutive double-double

with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Jai Lewis led George Mason (1-1) with 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Lamar Butler added 13 points. The Patriots struggled from the field, shooting 28 percent, including 3-of-19 from 3-point range.

Memphis led 41-32 at the half, but George Mason stayed close despite shooting 29 percent from the field,

including 2-of-10 from 3-point range. The Patriots hit all but one of their 13 free throws in the half.

Lewis had nine points for George Mason, but was hampered with foul problems, sitting out the final 6 minutes of the half.

George Mason chipped into the lead early in the second half and eventually cut it to five at 49-44, before Memphis

clicked off seven straight points, part of a 12-1 run, to build it back to double digits.

Lewis did his best to keep George Mason in the game. Using his size underneath and spin moves on the baseline, he scored seven of George Mason's eight points in on one stretch, cutting the lead to 63-54, the only time the Patriots got the Memphis lead under double digits in the final 12 min-



# Byrd decisions McCline to keep IBF title

By **TIM DAHLBERG**  
AP BOXING WRITER

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Chris Byrd felt the power and found the canvas. Then Jameel McCline found out what made Byrd a heavyweight champion in the first place. Giving away 56 pounds and several inches, Byrd survived a second-round knockdown and a bigger man’s punch to retain his IBF heavyweight title Saturday night on a split decision by the narrowest of margins.

The fight was the best of two title bouts at Madison Square Garden. In the other, WBA champion John Ruiz retained his title despite being



Chris Byrd punches Jameel McCline in the fourth round of the IBF Heavyweight Championship fight at New York’s Madison Square Garden Saturday, Nov. 13, 2004.

## Swimmer Phelps faces fans after arrest

**BALTIMORE** (AP)—Michael Phelps made his first public appearance Saturday since being arrested on drunken driving charges and acknowledged he made a mistake.

The 19-year-old swimmer who won eight medals at the Summer Olympics faced fans at a health expo in the Baltimore Convention Center to sign autographs.

“It can happen to anybody,” Phelps said. “Anybody can make this mistake, and I just really want to reach out to every individual who even possibly thinks about making this mistake and make sure that they make the right decision.”

Around 11:30 p.m. on Nov. 4, a state trooper stopped Phelps after he ran a stop sign in his SUV near Salisbury, according to police. The trooper saw signs of intoxication and arrested Phelps.

The Olympic medalist was charged with driving under the influence, driving while impaired, violation of a license restriction and failure to obey a stop sign. Maryland’s drinking age is 21.

Many fans there said his arrest doesn’t change their opinion of him and many applauded him for coming forward and apologizing.

“I’ve been 19 before,” said Stan Cheung, 29. “It was irresponsible but he’s young and everybody makes mistakes.”

As a mother of five, Bonnie Jacobson said she has a different perspective.

“He’s an idol and you look up to an idol with a lot of respect. I was disappointed in him,” she said.

knocked down twice and penalized once in an ugly fight with Andrew Golota.

Ruiz also lost his trainer, Norman Stone, who ran across the ring after the first round and threw a punch at Golota’s trainer and then was ejected in the eighth round after repeatedly arguing with referee Randy Neumann.

Ruiz, though, came on strong late in the fight to win 114-111 on two cards and 113-112 on the third. The Associated Press had Golota ahead, 113-112.

As crafty a fighter as the heavyweight division has seen in recent times, Byrd needed every bit of his skills to come on strong in the later rounds to win a split 12-round decision that was in doubt until the final judge’s tally was added up.

The good friends hugged as the highly entertaining fight ended and the crowd of 12,777 stood and cheered. Byrd won by 115-112 and 114-113, while McCline was favored 114-112 on the third scorecard.

The AP card favored Byrd, 115-113.

“The way I fought back showed I am a true champion. I had to dig down. He weighed 270 pounds,” Byrd said. “I definitely did enough to win the fight. I am a champion.”

Byrd, who weighed 214 pounds to McCline’s 270, was in trouble early, going down in the second round from a right hand and taking punishment from an aggressive McCline. He was trailing badly after five rounds, before beginning to find his mark and score with quick inside combinations.

It was the third title defense for the southpaw Byrd, and the third fight that was close until the end. In his last fight, he retained the title with a draw over Golota.

“He has fast hands and he took me out of my game plan,” McCline said. “That was the difference.”

In other fights:  
□ Evander Holyfield was dominated once again, this time

by journeyman Larry Donald, but refused to call it a career. At the age of 42, Holyfield lost almost every round to Donald and has now won only two of his last nine fights.

□ Former heavyweight champion Hasim Rahman put himself in contention for one of the major titles by stopping an out-classed Kali Meehan after four rounds. Rahman never knocked Meehan down but was giving him such punishment at the end of the fourth round that Meehan’s corner threw in the towel after the round ended.

Byrd (38-2-1) didn’t have the power to knock McCline down, but stood and traded punches in the later rounds, getting the better of the bigger man in almost every exchange and giving a boxing clinic to both McCline (31-4-3) and the Garden crowd.

McCline was staggering toward the end when a flurry by Byrd seemed to hurt him with 45 seconds left in the 11th round and Byrd in command.

“It was not everything I imagined it would be because I expected to go home with the title,” McCline said. “It looked like I fell apart a little toward the end and that may have cost me.”

McCline appeared on his way to a quick end when he floored Byrd late in the second round. But Byrd got up, weathered the storm and began landing with quick combinations.

“I can’t believe it happened,” Byrd said of the knockdown. “He hit me right behind the ear. It was a perfect shot.”

Like Byrd, Ruiz was in danger of losing his title early. He was dropped by a counter right late in the second round by Golota, then went down a few seconds later with a right to the top of the head.

The fight disintegrated from there into a brawling, mauling affair that pleased nobody except Ruiz, who has a history of fighting ugly and winning unpopular decisions.

## No. 7 Utah pastes Wyoming, 45-28

**LARAMIE, Wyo.** (AP)—A brownout that delayed the start for 99 minutes was the only thing that slowed down No. 7 Utah on Saturday night. After power was restored, Utah rolled to a 45-28 victory over Wyoming, clinching a second straight Mountain West title and boosting the Utes’ hopes for a marquee bowl.

Utah’s school-record 10-0 start combined with Wisconsin’s 49-14 loss to Michigan State could move the Utes into the top six in the BCS standings and a likely berth in the Fiesta Bowl. Utah is 6-0 in conference play.

Alex Smith passed for 244 yards and three touchdowns and ran for a game-high 105 yards and another TD as Utah scored on its first five possessions. Smith, who completed 17 of 27 passes, has 27 touchdown pass-

es and only two interceptions on the season.

Steve Savoy had a 15-yard run that put Utah up 38-7 and a 10-yard TD among his six receptions as the Utes racked up 488 yards of offense.

John Madsen’s 15-yard catch made it 45-14 on the final play of the third quarter.

Wyoming (6-4, 3-3) had no answer for the Utes’ attack, which came close to its averages of 45.8 points and 500 yards.

Helped by Wyoming’s ineptness, Utah piled up 318 yards and a 31-7 lead by halftime. The Cowboys coughed up the ball on three of their first four drives.

Morgan Scalley’s sixth interception of the season set up a 26-yard pass from Smith to Paris Warren, putting Utah up 24-7 with 11:04 left in the first half.

Utah bolted to a 14-0 lead on Smith’s 27-yard keeper and

Marty Johnson’s 1-yard run before Wyoming scored on a 41-yard pass from Corey Bramlet to Jovon Bouknight.

David Carroll’s 25-yard field goal left the Utes up 17-7 after one quarter.

Bramlet, who passed for 278 yards but was intercepted twice, scored on two short runs in the second half and tossed a 20-yard TD to Bouknight with 34 seconds left after the Utes’ only turnover.

Smith’s opening touchdown came after Corey Dodds recovered a Wyoming fumble on the game’s second play.

Marquess Ledbetter’s interception on the Cowboys’ next drive led to a 64-yard Utah march capped by Johnson’s TD run.

The start was delayed 1 hour, 39 minutes because of a partial power outage, leaving fans shivering in twilight and a 15-degree wind chill until kickoff at 6:45 p.m.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	3	2	.600	—
Toronto	4	3	.571	—
Philadelphia	3	3	.500	1/2
New York	2	3	.400	1
New Jersey	2	4	.333	1 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	4	2	.667	—
Orlando	4	2	.667	—
Washington	3	3	.500	1
Charlotte	1	4	.200	2 1/2
Atlanta	1	5	.167	3

Central Division

Milwaukee	3	1	.750	1/2
Indiana	5	2	.714	—
Cleveland	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Detroit	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Chicago	0	4	.000	3 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	6	1	.857	—
San Antonio	5	1	.833	1/2
Houston	3	4	.429	3
Memphis	2	4	.333	3 1/2
New Orleans	0	6	.000	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Seattle	5	1	.833	—
Utah	5	1	.833	—
Minnesota	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Portland	3	3	.500	2
Denver	2	4	.333	3

Pacific Division

Phoenix	4	2	.667	—
L.A. Clippers	4	3	.571	1/2
L.A. Lakers	4	4	.500	1
Sacramento	2	4	.333	2
Golden State	1	6	.143	3 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 105, Washington 74

Dallas 94, New Jersey 78

San Antonio 103, Atlanta 88

Golden State 103, Charlotte 87

Indiana 103, New York 97

L.A. Lakers 84, Houston 79

L.A. Clippers 97, Chicago 96

Milwaukee 94, New Orleans 91

Utah 108, Detroit 93

Sacramento 113, Phoenix 111

Portland 105, Toronto 102?

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

EAST

Boston College 36, West Virginia 17

Bucknell 42, Colgate 7

Buffalo 36, Cent. Michigan 6

Cent. Connecticut St. 28, Albany, N.Y. 23

Cornell 32, Columbia 26

Dartmouth 20, Brown 7

Duquesne 36, Morehead St. 33, 2OT

Harvard 31, Penn 10

Lafayette 56, Holy Cross 20

Lehigh 21, Fordham 14

Maine 42, Rhode Island 28

Monmouth, N.J. 49, St. Francis, Pa. 39

New Hampshire 62, Towson 24

Northeastern 37, Hofstra 34, 2OT

Sacred Heart 24, Robert Morris 3

St. Peter's 13, Pace 6

Stony Brook 45, Iona 13

Temple 34, Syracuse 24

Yale 21, Princeton 9

SOUTH

Alabama A&M 27, Alcorn St. 21

Alabama St. 34, MVSU 6

Auburn 24, Georgia 6

Coastal Carolina 48, Jacksonville 23

Delaware 23, Richmond 14

Delaware St. 33, Norfolk St. 28

Duke 16, Clemson 13

E. Kentucky 29, Tennessee St. 14

Elon 24, The Citadel 7

Furman 31, Wofford 24

Gardner-Webb 18, Charleston Southern 0

Georgetown, D.C. 23, Davidson 0

Georgia Southern 53, Fla. International 32

Georgia Tech 30, Connecticut 10

Grambling St. 31, Savannah St. 26

Hampton 51, N. Carolina A&T 24

Howard 10, Bethune-Cookman 7

Kentucky 14, Vanderbilt 13

Liberty 43, Chattanooga 40

Miami 31, Virginia 21

Middle Tennessee 37, Louisiana-Monroe 24

Murray St. 38, Tenn.-Martin 0

New Mexico St. 35, Florida Atlantic 7

North Carolina 31, Wake Forest 24

S. Carolina St. 38, Morgan St. 35, 2OT

Southern U. 28, Texas Southern 0

Stillman 24, Austin Peay 17

Troy 13, Louisiana-Lafayette 10

UAB 20, Houston 7

W. Carolina 30, Appalachian St. 27

W. Kentucky 45, W. Illinois 3

William & Mary 27, James Madison 24

MIDWEST

Akron 31, Ohio 19

Ball St. 21, UCF 17

Bowling Green 56, Marshall 35

Drake 39, Waldorf 7

Iowa 29, Minnesota 27

Kent St. 69, E. Michigan 17

Miami (Ohio) 42, W. Michigan 21

Michigan 42, Northwestern 20

Michigan St. 49, Wisconsin 14

Penn St. 22, Indiana 18

Pittsburgh 41, Notre Dame 38

Purdue 24, Ohio St. 17

SE Missouri 31, Tennessee Tech 28, 2OT

SW Missouri St. 34, Youngstown St. 28

St. Joseph's, Ind. 34, Butler 0

Texas 27, Kansas 23

Valparaiso 34, Aurora 0

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas 35, Mississippi 3

Jackson St. 45, Prairie View 28

Oklahoma St. 49, Baylor 21

Stephen F. Austin 55, McNeese St. 7

Texas A&M 32, Texas Tech 25, OT

Texas State 35, Nicholls St. 12

FAR WEST

Boise St. 56, San Jose St. 49, 2OT

California 42, Washington 12

Colorado 38, Kansas St. 31

Colorado St. 45, UNLV 10

E. Washington 51, Montana St. 44, OT

Idaho St. 24, N. Arizona 17

Montana 52, Sacramento St. 21

New Mexico 21, BYU 14

Oregon St. 24, Stanford 19

Portland St. 34, Weber St. 15

San Diego 35, Wagner 14

San Diego St. 37, Air Force 31

UCLA 34, Oregon 26

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

EAST

Pratt 73, Sarah Lawrence 43

St. Vincent 95, Penn St.-New Kensington 60

SOUTH

Brescia 72, Tenn. Wesleyan 46

Houston Baptist 77, William Carey 63

Pikeville 83, Berea 69

MIDWEST

Culver-Stockton 89, Concordia Seminary 64

Mary 76, Montana St.-Northern 63

Mount Marty 85, Dakota St. 79

Mount Vernon Nazarene 67, Daemen 51

Northwestern, Iowa 90, Jamestown 76

Notre Dame, Ohio 121, Mary Grove 88

Trinity, Ill. 67, Purdue-Calumet 64

SOUTHWEST

Oklahoma Baptist 82, Jarvis Christian 66

FAR WEST

No scores reported from the FAR WEST.

TOURNAMENT

CEDARVILLE INVITATIONAL

Third Place

Aquinas 85, Miami (Ohio), Middletown 50

EXHIBITION

Alabama 89, Athletes in Action 63

Dayton 63, Findlay 61

Drake 65, N. Dakota St. 49

Fordham 83, Felician 57

Maryland 89, Carleton 60

N. Illinois 94, Laval-Quebec 55

Oklahoma 95, Cent. Oklahoma 71

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

MLB

TORONTO BLUE JAYS-Claimed RHP

Seung Song off waivers from the Montreal Expos.

NBA

NEW ORLEANS HORNETS-Placed =

Rodney Rogers on the injured list. Activated G Junior Harrington from the injured list.

NFL

PITTSBURGH STEELERS-Released QB Brian St. Pierre. Signed RB Dante Brown from the practice squad.

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

CFL STANDINGS

Shell Chiefs	6	0	1.000	-
Miller Barbarians	3	3	.500	3
Verizon Nitro	0	6	.000	6

SML STANDINGS

Pirates	4	2	.750	-
North Stars	4	3	.571	1/2
Kautz Glass	3	4	.428	1
Hustlers	2	4	.250	2

SML BOX SCORES

Game 1

North Stars 0 0 1 0 1 2 4 0 0 8

Pirates 1 2 0 0 0 1 0 0 2 6

Game 2

Hustlers 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 3

Kautz Glass 4 1 0 0 4 0 0 0 - 9





Triathlete Dick Pierce finishes the bicycle portion of the Enticer Triathlon and readies for the transition to the run on Saturday, Nov. 6.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Triathletes invade Marpi anew

By BRAD E. RUSZALA  
REPORTER



While many people across the CNMI were getting ready for their weekend barbecues at the beach, several others gathered at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi for a swim, bike ride, and a run, as the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation hosted an "Enticer Triathlon" in the wee hours of last Saturday, Nov. 6.

In an effort to attract more people to the sport of three, the NMITF put together a series of races aimed at preparing would-be triathletes for the Olympic distance triathlon in Tinian in February.

NMITF volunteers and organizers were surprised at the large turnout, as 36 racers showed up to take part in the event. Adding

to the delight of organizers is that 31 of the participants had never competed in a triathlon of any distance.

Organizers and volunteers made a list of those needing bikes, helmets and goggles, and began to register the rookies.

Due to the larger than expected turn-out, several of the experienced triathletes opted to volunteer to help as race buddies, transition help, or as course safety officers.

NMITF president Stephan Samoyloff assembled the mass of first-timers for a pre-race briefing at the pool before Saipan swim coach Mike Stewart, blew the whistle to start the event at 8:05am.

The first-time racers used a variety of methods to negotiate the 200-meter swim, to include a few who chose to utilize fins and snorkels. Though no two

strokes were the same, the athletes were in unison in their desire to try something new.

From the pool, racers quickly made the transition to the bike portion of the course, which featured an approximately 3-kilometer ride northward from the pool to the dump, where they turned around and headed back.

After reaching the driveway to the pool, volunteers racked their bikes while racers then transitioned to the 1km run north to the FEBC road sign, before returning to the pool.

The first place finisher overall it was Saipan International School teacher Wayne Bramlett. The experienced triathlete pulled off the fastest combined time of 25:09 to finish ahead of Gary Padsing in second (25:26), and Caleb Gabbie in third (26:06).

Gabbie also finished first in

the youth category ahead of second place Brad Brostrom (29:00—ninth overall), and third place Justin Alexander (32:13—14th overall).

Betty Johnson placed first among the women with 32:03, for 13th overall, while Brenda Schultz (17th overall) was just a minute behind in second place with a 33:03, followed by third place Laura Hohman with a time of 34:00.

The sole female youth competitor was Natasha Good who finished with a time of 28:06 and in 7th place overall.

The NMITF will continue the series with a second enticer at Pau Pau Beach on Saturday, Dec. 11, when the distances are increased to a 600-meter swim, an 18-kilometer bike, and 4-kilometer run. Registration and start times have yet to be announced.

## Ada, eight others elected to board



Nine volunteer district administrators were elected to three-year terms on the Little League International Board of Directors, it was announced recently by Stephen D. Keener, president and chief executive officer of Little League Baseball and Softball.

The newly-elected directors are: James Ada of Saipan, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (District 1); Frank Bergfield of Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (District 1); Danny Cavallo of Syracuse, N.Y. (District 8); Jim Chavez of Auburn, Wash. (District 10); Val Domingue, Jr. of Lafayette, La. (District 1); Bob Gibson of Dunedin, Fla. (District 12); James Joseph of Burlington, Wis. (District 1); Felix M. Rivera of Arroyo, Puerto Rico (District 13), and Marc St. Pierre of Quebec, Ontario, Canada (District 4).

The nine new members were nominated by their fellow district administrators at the Little League International Congress in Virginia Beach, Va., last April. Each of these new directors brings a wealth of experience and volunteer leadership to serve this board, said Keener.

Its that experience at all levels of the Little League program that makes them highly qualified to help govern



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

James Ada, standing right, of Saipan joins eight other newly elected Little League International Board of Directors.

the worlds largest organized youth sports program. A member of the International Board of Directors for eight years, Timothy J. Hughes from Williamsport, has served as chairman-elect since 2001, and succeeds W. Dwight Raiford of Harlem, N.Y. Raiford will remain on the board of directors. It is an honor and a privilege to be elected chairman of the Little League International Board of Directors, said

Hughes. I have been a part of the Little League program for many years, and at each level of my association I have been proud of the role Little League plays in the lives of the children

and volunteers it serves. I see my time as chairman as an opportunity to continue to educate, and help expand the program. Hughes is the first chairman of the Little League International Board of Directors to have graduated from Little League. As a boy, he played in the Little Mountaineer Little League in South Williamsport. Dennis Lewin of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., was elected chairman-elect, and will serve in that capacity until the election of nine new directors in 2007.

Little League Baseball, founded in 1939, is the world's largest organized youth sports program, with nearly 2.7 million participants and a million

volunteers in all 50 U.S. states and 66 other countries. The Little League International Board of Directors, a volunteer board, is responsible for the management of the property and affairs of Little League. At the meeting, the board heard presentations on Little League Internationals newly created league development department and electronic newsletter.

The league development department will take a more pro-active approach to inquiries from potential new leagues. The Little League E-Newsletter will be sent electronically to more than 250,000 adult volunteers and players each month. (PR)

## Still no takers for Thursday 8-ball

Corner Pocket owner and billiards connoisseur Ken Phillips is once again inviting pool players on island to partake of competitive 8-ball action at his sports bar.

A week after announcing that the favorite billiards venue of the island's slickest pool players is moving its regular Tuesday 8-Ball Tournament to Thursday, Phillips reported that, "nobody has been biting."

Phillips said he would try again this Nov. 18 to restart the 8-ball event, which promises a level playing field for ace cue artists and not so good ones alike.

The renamed Thursday 8-Ball Tournament is scheduled to roll off 8:30pm Thursday. Participants must fork over \$15 to enter the double-elimination competition. Progressive pot for 8-ball in a break will apply.

Ladies will also be given a handicap and players are given free practice rounds before the tournament starts provided they buy drinks from the bar.

First place is assured half of the

total entrance fee with runner-up and third places also coming home with cash prizes. The Top 3 will also receive Budweiser giveaways from MARPAC.

Corner Pocket's Thursday 8-Ball Tournament can host a maximum of 16 players.

Phillips and Corner Pocket also continues to host the ever-popular Monday 9-Ball Tournament. As its name suggests, the tournament rolls off every Monday beginning at 9pm.

The competition uses a handicap to give beginners a chance against top-caliber players. Entry fee is \$10 and first place and second place are guaranteed prize money.

Both the regular 9-ball and 8-ball tournaments use the rules of the Billiards Congress of America.

For more information on the regular Monday 9-Ball Tournament and upcoming Thursday 8-Ball Tournament, please contact Phillips at 233-POOL (7665). (Mark Rabago)



## NORTH

From Page 28

Camacho entered the game in the fifth and added two singles, a ribby and a score to guide the Stars.

The second game ended with a swap in the standings, as the Kautz Glass Glazers (3-4) leapfrogged the defending champion Rep. Dave Atalig Hustlers (2-4) into third place with a 9-3 upset before the sunset.

The Glazers scored all of the

runs that they would need in the bottom of the first inning when Tyrone Omar, Anthony Palacios, J.P. Sablan, and Ben Taisican made their way home in the four run, four hit stanza, and relied on solid pitching to carry them home.

Hurler Franco Flores pitched six and a third innings, fanning four and allowing a pair of runs off of four hits before David Camacho slammed the door shut with a one run, two hit, and four strikeout performance in

the final three and two thirds.

The Glazers received plenty of offense from their big "O" as Omar went 3-for-5 on the game with a pair of singles, a double, and two scores. Teammate Palacios also went 3-for-5 with a trio of singles and two scores, and Sablan did the same.

This past weekend's games fell victim to a barrage of airborne water droplets and remain to be rescheduled.

while Togawa's 144 smoked the field in the ladies division. Blanco, meanwhile, finished tied with four others atop the leaderboard in Class-B but yielded the Top 2 spots because of tiebreaks.

von Siebenthal, who also played for the team, said Saipan was awarded the championship cup during a gala dinner/Halloween night held at the Hyatt Regency Manila on Oct. 30.

Sam Cheng, food and beverage director of the hotel and also a member of the champion team,

said the three-day, three-night golf package to Manila was also made possible by Continental Micronesia, which gave a special discount to the delegation.

Cheng and von Siebenthal both said that aside from the two days of wonderful golf, played at the mountain resort town south of Manila, Saipan Club at the Hyatt members also were able to shop at the Philippine capital's famously inexpensive shopping malls.

Other members of the victorious Club at the Hyatt Saipan team were Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sa-

blan, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Carlos Salas, Camacho's SPG teammate Nick Sablan, former resident Richard Heidemann (husband of former Philippine Consul General Julia Heidemann), Pacific Trading Co. general manager Charles Cepeda, Rex Palacios, Timothy Brasuell, Juan Reyes, Frank Castro, Renato Babalones, Sung Wook Lee, Manny Alvarez, Bob George John Matsumoto, John Santos, Matt Araki, Frankie Pangelinan, Daniel Harding, Mike Pai, Mark Hanson, Belle Grandinetti, Liz George, and Yoko Togawa.





## Triathletes invade Marpi anew

While many people across the CNMI were getting ready for their weekend barbecues at the beach, several others gathered at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi for a swim, bike ride, and a run.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## James, Ilgauskas lead Cavaliers over Wizards

LeBron James scored 24 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 21 and the Cleveland Cavaliers won their third straight game after an 0-3 start, beating the Washington Wizards 105-74 Saturday.



28 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2004

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Chiefs complete season of perfection

By BRAD E. RUSZALA  
REPORTER



The Shell Chiefs' offense was able to put a couple of drives together to pull out a 12-2

victory against the Verizon Nitro to complete their undefeated season, in the sloppiest game of the 2004 Commonwealth Football League's fourth season.

Both of the defenses dominated the CPA Airport field last Saturday, but while the Chiefs were able to keep their end zone Verizon free, the Nitro surrendered touchdowns in the first and third quarters, that proved to be the difference.

Without the services of quarterbacks Clasley Ngeskebei and Danny Punimata, the Chiefs once again put the offense in the hands of Bryant Moors, while his statistics do not jump off of the page, Moors did what he had to do to get his team the win. On a couple of occasions, Moors found himself in the grasp of multiple Nitro defenders and managed to toss the ball to awaiting receivers.

In one instance he was able to get the ball out to a well-positioned Stanley Iakopo, and the league's leading rusher was able to scamper to the outside for a 22-yard touchdown that gave them the 12-2 lead.

On the day, Moors went 3-for-13 for 58 yards through in the air, including a 19-yard strike to Luka Tapua'ialupe for



BRAD E. RUSZALA

George Lieto and the Verizon Nitro offense walks off the field after being stopped by the unyielding Shell Chiefs defense.

a touchdown. Moors also had a pair of interceptions, and while both teams had difficulty with their passing games, the Chiefs relied on their running game to put points on the board and take time off the clock.

The high-octane Chiefs run-

ning attack that had averaged just less than 110 yards per game was only able to accumulate 77 yards on the day. Iakopo once again led the Chiefs on the ground, but was held to 35 yards on 11 carries and a touchdown—well below his average. In the absence of Jeff Boy-

er, running back Paul Guerrero got plenty of touches, as big No. 4 churned out 25 hard yards on 13 carries.

The Nitro also had a receiver at the helm, as George Lieto was tasked to lead his team. Unfortunately for the white and

red, Lieto didn't find much success through the air, completing 2-of-9 passes for -3 yards. Lieto made up for his lack of an air attack with a few scintillating runs. Number 88 ran seven times for 51 yards on the day, including a 41-yarder.

Running back Simon Sebuu ran six times for 23 yards, but go-to-guy James Hargrove was held to 15 yards.

While the Verizon offense had some difficulty putting points on the board, their defense provided some assistance when John Sablan and Juanis King were on the scene to record a safety for the Nitro in the second quarter.

Jesse Sablan and Jack Aldan were wreaking havoc on the Chiefs as well, as Sablan, racked up seven tackles and a sack, while Aldan had five stops and two sacks.

The Shell curtain didn't do too bad either, as they didn't allow the Nitro offense a score in the contest.

Whenever Lieto tried to get something going for the offense, a sea of red and gold was waiting. Paul Camacho seemed to be on the other side of the line of scrimmage before Lieto could take his first step away from the center.

Camacho pierced through the Nitro line as if it the big guys weren't even there. He finished the game with 4.5 tackles, but teammate Chico Reyes led all of the Chiefs with 7.5 on the day.

The playoffs get underway this weekend, as the Miller Barbarians (3-3) host the Verizon Nitro (0-6) on Saturday, Nov. 20, at 10am. The winner earns the right to take on the Shell Chiefs (6-0) in the championship the following weekend on Saturday, Nov. 27, at 10am.

## Hyatt GM elated on Manila trip

By MARK RABAGO  
REPORTER



Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael von Siebenthal was elated that the Garapan landmark was able to bring home the bacon, so to speak, in the 2nd Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Tournament held at the Sherwood Hills Golf Club on Oct. 29-30 in Tagaytay City, Philippines.

"We're very happy about the results. We're very happy our Club at the Hyatt members were able to win the tournament and bested their counterparts from Manila and Guam, especially Guam," he said.

Guam topped last year's inaugural tournament between the three hotels but lost steam this year finishing in third place behind Saipan and Manila. Local golfers got a boost



MARK RABAGO

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael von Siebenthal, right, proudly holds up the 2nd Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Tournament cup at the Garapan landmark's entrance last week. He is joined in the photo by the hotel's food and beverage director Sam Cheng.

with the participation of 2003 Suva South Pacific Games veteran Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, B flight specialist Diego Blanco, and women's ace golfer Noriiko Togawa.

Club at the Hyatt members from Saipan wound up with 1,410 in two rounds to finish ahead of Manila, which had 1,428, and Guam, which had 1,457.

Saipan led from the get-go, as its players combined for a superb 707 in the first day of competition compared to 719 for Manila and 743 for Guam. It didn't end there as Saipan made it two-for-two the next day amassing a score of 703 to once again top the three-team fight, while Manila and Guam could only muster 709 and 714, respectively.

Camacho, Blanco, and Togawa also finished with the best scores in their respective divisions. Camacho fired a 132 in

See HYATT on Page 27

two rounds to win Class-A,

## North Stars, Kautz Glass earn weekday wins

By BRAD E. RUSZALA  
REPORTER

The Heinz & David North Stars and the Kautz Glass Glazers triumphed on Thursday to edge closer to the first place Speaker Fitial Pirates in a bonus day of baseball in the fall edition of the Saipan Major League at Francisco M. Palacios field in Oleai.

The North Stars received six strong innings from pitcher Brandon Santos, and reliever Ricky Jones picked up the win when his offense provided the necessary runs to help him finish the job to knock off the black and gold, 8-6.

With the win, the second place North Stars (4-3) moved within a half game of the Pirates (4-2), with just a couple of games remaining in the season.

Santos allowed four runs

off of five hits and fanned six through six innings, while Jones gave up a hit and a pair of runs through three innings.

The game was all tied up at four apiece after the sixth inning before the North Stars followed up a couple of Pirates miscues with three hits and a sacrifice fly to take the 8-4 lead.

Jones had some room to work with when he came into game in the bottom of the inning, and though he surrendered two scores in the bottom of the ninth inning, he was able to end the game with his fifth strikeout.

North Stars' slugger Ben Jones had the big stick for his team, going 2-for-5 with two base knocks, a run batted in, and a pair of plate crosses.

See NORTH on Page 27

ings, while teammate Martin